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RECENT LITERACY TRENDS IN INDIA

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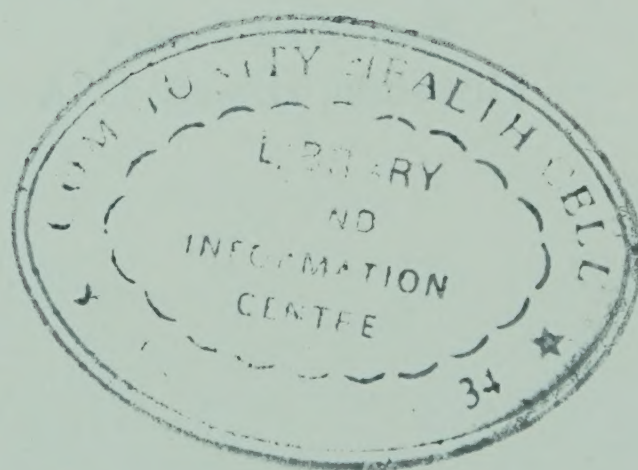
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Views expressed in this study are of
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FOREWORD

Under the agreement on Family Planning Communications and Marketing between the Government of India and the United States of America through the Agency for International Development, the Demographic Analysis Component has been assigned to the Registrar General, India to execute. Activities under the Component include training, workshops, conferences and collaborative research activities, in collaboration with the institutions in the United States of America like the Population Institute of the East-West Centre, Honolulu, Hawaii and the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington-D.C.

This study is a result of the collaborative research between the Population Institute of the East-West Centre and the office of the Registrar General, India.

I thank the authors for the effort put in by them and hope that this work will be of interest to data users. I also thank the United States Agency for International Development and the Population Institute of the East-West Centre for making the research work possible.

New Delhi
February 20, 1987

V.S. Verma
Registrar General &
Census Commissioner, India

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Honolulu-Hawaii (USA)
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INTRODUCTION

Mass education and literacy are a hallmark of modern society. Recognizing this, developing countries generally view education as a necessary and basic ingredient of economic and social development planning. In India, the goal of free and compulsory education through the age of 14 is enshrined as a Directive Principle of the Constitution. A prominent goal of India's Plan Documents is the achievement of universal availability and equality of opportunity for education as a basic means of promoting the general welfare.

Although the Government of India has long espoused the goal of universal literacy and education, attainment of this goal is still a long way from being accomplished. To be sure, a good deal of progress has been made. There is at present a network of more than 650 thousand schools and colleges, with more than 3 million teachers and an annual budget of more than Rs. 30,000 million. But the crude literacy rate was still only 36 per cent at the time of the 1981 Census. Moreover, progress has been uneven from one part of the country to the next, with some states and union territories showing much improvement but others not so much.

The present study focuses on literacy, not on the educational system that produces it. Data sources are the censuses of 1961, 1971, and 1981, so that literacy trends are examined for the period 1961-81. The reference dates of the three censuses were 1 March 1961, 1 April 1971, and 1 March 1981, except for

Jammu and Kashmir in 1981 with a reference date of May 6. In analyzing literacy trends we have made no adjustments for variations by month of census and have treated each pair of censuses as exactly 10 years apart.

Further, the 1981 Census could not be held in Assam because of disturbed conditions prevailing there at the time of the 1981 Census operations. Therefore, for reasons of comparability, we have excluded Assam from the 1961 and 1971 censuses as well. Thus Assam is completely excluded from this study.

The censuses of 1961, 1971 and 1981 defined literacy as the ability to read and write with understanding in any language. To be classified as literate, a person need not have received any formal education or passed any minimum standard to qualify as literate. A person who could merely read but not write was not defined as literate. Children below five years of age were also defined as illiterate.

The measure of literacy used throughout most of this study is the literacy rate, which is simply the per cent literate in the population. Part of the study also examines age-specific literacy rates. A problem here is that at the time of this writing, age-specific literacy data have not been published for all the states and union territories, but so far only for 14 major states, based on the 5 per cent advance tabulation. Therefore, for reasons of comparability, we have restricted the age-specific analysis to these 14 states for the 1961 and 1971 censuses as well. The analysis of the correlates of literacy is also limited to the 14 major states.

The study begins with an examination of literacy trends for India, followed by an examination of trends for states and union territories. The section on states and union territories includes an examination of sex differentials and urban-rural differentials in literacy rates. Age differentials in literacy rates are also examined. Then follows an analysis of the quality of

literacy in terms of its changing composition by educational attainment. Next the developmental correlates of literacy are considered in an analysis of how female literacy and several development indices covary across 14 major states. The final section presents some rough projections of literacy rates for states and union territories that may serve as a pointer.

LITERACY RATES FOR INDIA

According to the 1981 Census, the population of India, excluding Assam (with a projected population of about 20 million in 1981), was 665 million. The 1981 literacy rate was 36.2 per cent.

Literacy levels for earlier census years are shown in Statement 1. Starting at the low level of 5.3 per cent in 1901, the literacy rate more than tripled to 16.7 per cent by 1951, shortly after partition. By 1981 it had slightly more than doubled again, to 36.2 per cent. Despite the rise in the literacy rate, however, the number of illiterates did not fall. Between 1901 and 1981 it almost doubled, from 222 million to 424 million. This occurred because the population base almost tripled during the same period. The rise in the literacy rate meant that illiterates grew at a slower rate than did the base population, but the rise in the literacy rate was not fast enough to keep illiterates from increasing in absolute number.

Statement 2 provides further details on decadal growth rates of literates and illiterates. Decadal growth rates of literates were generally higher after independence than before, except for the decade 1931-41, which saw an unusually high growth rate. The comparatively low growth rate during the decade 1941-51 is no doubt related in large part to World War II and the social and political unrest in the subcontinent leading to partition and independence. The comparatively high growth rates after independence were sustained despite a substantial acceleration of the growth rate of the base population, also shown in Statement 2. Because accelerated

growth of the base population, decadal growth rates for illiterates was also generally higher after independence than before.

Statement 1 : Total population, literates and illiterates, 1901-1981, INDIA*
(in million)

Year	Population	Literates	Illiterates	Literacy rate
1	2	3	4	5
1901	235.1	12.6	222.5	5.3
1911	248.2	14.7	233.5	5.9
1921	246.7	17.7	229.0	7.2
1931	273.4	26.0	247.4	9.5
1941	312.0	50.2	261.8	16.1
1951	353.1	58.9	294.2	16.7
1961†	428.1	102.6	325.5	24.0
1971	533.5	157.3	376.2	29.5
1981	665.3	241.0	424.3	36.2

*Excludes Assam.

†Excludes population (297,853), literates and illiterates of that portion of Arunachal Pradesh where the all-India Census Schedule was not canvassed in 1961.

Note: Numbers of literates and illiterates for years between 1901 and 1941 were estimated by applying the literacy rate for undivided India to the population of that part of undivided India that remained in India after partition.

The growth rate of illiterates was negative during only one decade, 1911-21, and then only slightly so. The fall was probably due mainly to the worldwide influenza epidemic, which undoubtedly fell more heavily on illiterates than on literates. Total population size actually declined slightly during this period. The growth rates for illiterates are somewhat misleading because the base population includes the sub-population of pre-school children not expected to be literate, which has grown especially rapidly since independence. When this age group is excluded, the growth rates of illiterates are slightly lower except for 1971-81, when fertility declined and the growth rate of the 0-4 age group was comparatively low.

Statement 2 : Per cent decadal growth rates of population, literates and illiterates, 1901-1981, INDIA*

Decade	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4
1901-11	5.6	16.8	5.0
1911-21	—0.6	20.2	—1.9
1921-31	10.8	47.1	8.0
1931-41	14.1	93.4	5.8
1941-51	13.2	17.2	12.6
1951-61	21.3	74.4	10.7
1961-71	24.5	53.2	15.5
1971-81	24.7	53.2	12.8

*Excludes Assam.

Significant sex differentials in literacy rates exist, but these are narrowing with the passage of time, as indicated by a rising trend in the ratio of the female literacy rate to the male literacy rate. The trends in literacy rates by sex are shown in Statement 3 and Graph 1. Statement 3 also shows the trend in the ratio of the female literacy rate to the male literacy rate. By the time of the 1981 Census, somewhat less than half of males and about one-fourth of females were literate, and the ratio of the female literacy rate to the male literacy rate was 53 per cent.

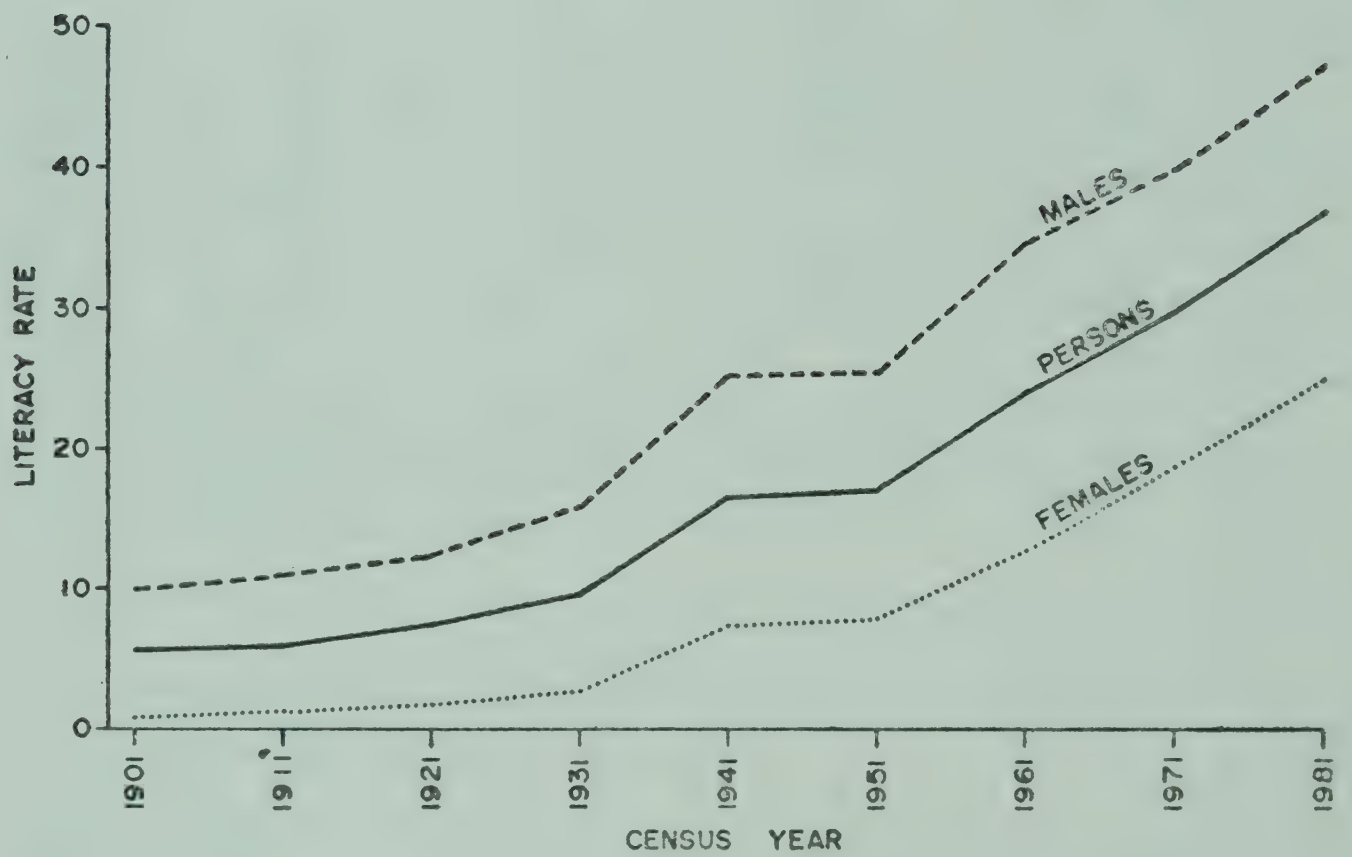
Statement 3 : Literacy rates by sex, 1901-1981, INDIA*

Year	Males	Females	Female rate/ male rate (%)
1	2	3	4
1901	9.8	0.6	6.1
1911	10.6	1.1	9.9
1921	12.2	1.8	14.8
1931	15.6	2.9	18.8
1941	24.9	7.3	29.3
1951	25.0	7.9	31.8
1961	34.4	12.9	37.6
1971	39.5	18.7	47.4
1981	46.9	24.8	52.9

*Excludes Assam.

Note : Rates for 1901 to 1941 are for undivided India.

GRAPH 1
LITERACY RATES BY SEX, 1901-1981, INDIA
(Excluding Assam)



There was a large urban-rural differential in literacy rates, as shown in Statement 4. Between 1961 and 1981 literacy rates increased substantially in both urban and rural areas. but by 1981 the urban literacy rate, at 57 per cent, was still almost double the rural literacy rate, at 30 per cent. The ratio of female to male literacy rates was 44 per cent in rural and 73 per cent in urban, indicating that the sex differential in literacy tends to diminish with urbanization.

Statement 4 : Literacy rates by sex and residence, 1961-1981, INDIA*

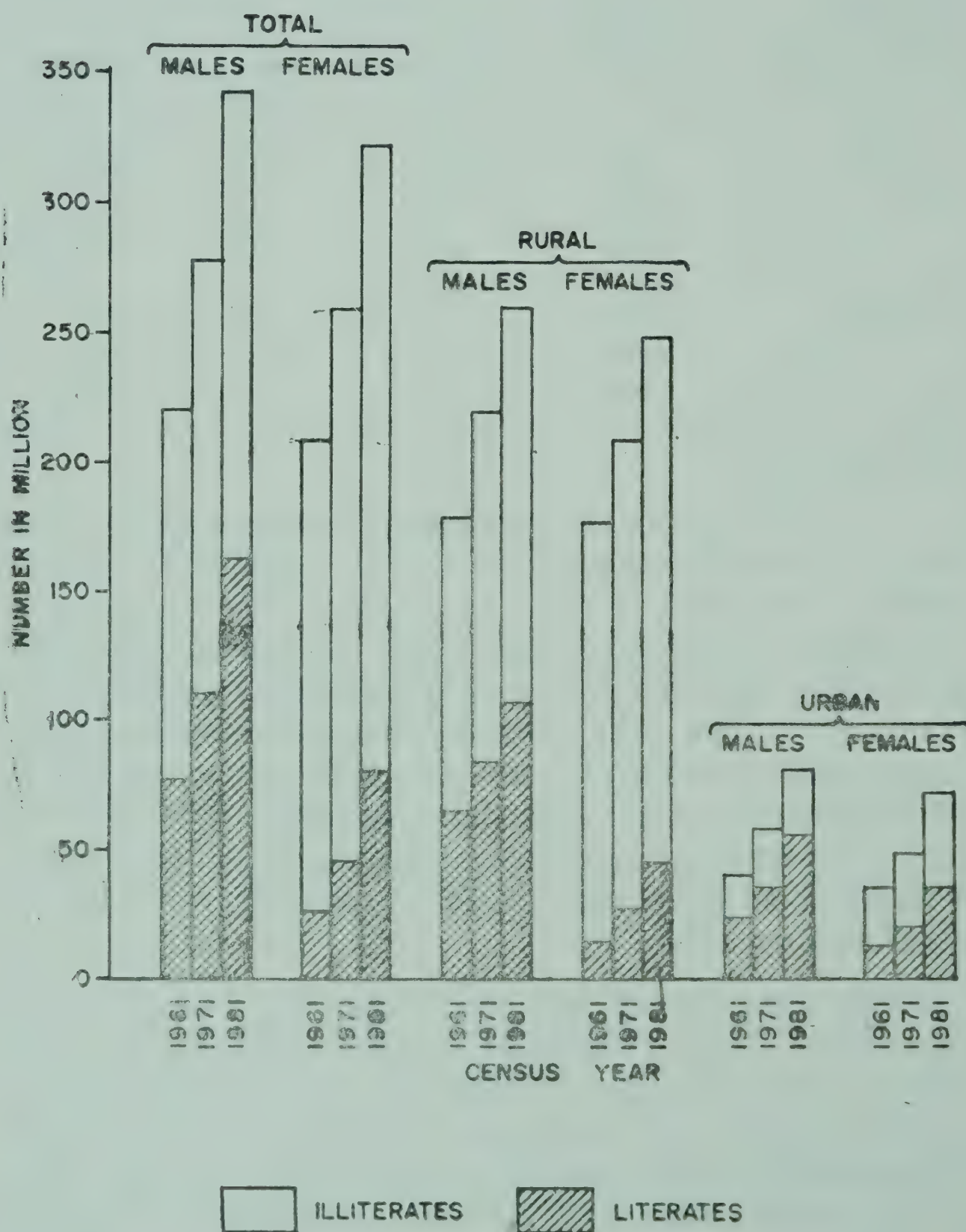
Residence	Year	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
Rural	1961	18.8	28.9	8.4
	1971	23.7	33.8	13.1
	1981	29.7	40.8	18.0
Urban	1961	46.9	57.4	34.4
	1971	52.4	61.2	42.0
	1981	57.4	65.8	47.8

*Excludes Assam.

Although literacy rates were higher in urban than in rural areas, it is nevertheless still true that a majority of literates reside in rural areas, as shown in Graph 2. This was true for both sexes, but more so for males than for females, who were particularly disadvantaged regarding literacy in rural areas. The reason why there were more literates in rural areas, despite considerably lower literacy rates there, is that the vast majority of the population is still rural. Consequently a lower literacy rate multiplied by a considerably large population base yields a large number of literates. In 1981 only 23 per cent of India's population was urban.

Given that literacy had been improving over time, one expects that literacy rates would be higher for younger persons (except for those under 5) than for older persons. This is generally borne out by the literacy rates shown in Statement 5. The greater literacy at ages 10-14 than at ages 5-9 is not really an exception, because many children enter school after age 5

GRAPH 2
NUMBER OF LITERATES AND ILLITERATES
BY RURAL-URBAN RESIDENCE AND SEX, 1961-1981, INDIA
(Excluding Assam)



especially in rural areas, and because children do not immediately become literate upon entering school. In any given year, the literacy rate peaks at ages 10-14. In 1981 the literacy rate in this age group was 67 per cent for males, 45 per cent for females, and 57 per cent for both sexes together. Over time, literacy rates steadily increased at all ages between 1961 and 1981.

Statement 5 : Literacy rates by age and sex, 1961-1981, INDIA*

Year	Age	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
1961	5—9	19.6	24.8	14.2
	10—14	42.2	54.4	28.3
	15—19	38.4	52.0	23.7
	20—24	33.5	49.7	18.1
	25—34	28.4	42.4	13.9
	35+	22.2	35.2	7.7
1971	5—9	23.2	27.3	18.9
	10—14	49.8	60.1	38.2
	15—19	51.4	63.5	37.7
	20—24	44.7	60.7	28.7
	25—34	34.8	50.1	19.3
	35+	25.2	38.0	10.8
1981	5—9	30.6	35.1	25.8
	10—14	56.6	66.9	44.8
	15—19	55.4	66.1	43.3
	20—24	52.0	66.5	37.2
	25—34	45.1	60.7	29.0
	35+	30.2	44.6	14.4

*Excludes Assam.

To a limited extent, it is also possible to follow particular age cohorts from one census to the next, as shown in Statement 6. Statement 6 follows the cohorts aged 5-9, 10-14, and 15-24 in 1961. For those aged 5-9 in 1961, the literacy rate increased by 1971, at ages 15-19 and declined slightly by 1981, at ages 25-29. The increase between ages 5-9 in 1961 and 15-19

in 1971 no doubt occurred for the same reasons given earlier to explain cross-sectional differences in literacy between ages 5-9 and 10-14. The subsequent decline between ages 15-19 in 1971 and 25-29 in 1981 may reflect differential age misreporting among literates and illiterates. It may also reflect lapses back into illiteracy among some of those who never made use of marginal education received earlier. These apparent lapses appear to occur only after about age 25. Yet another possibility is that, despite an unchanging census definition of literacy, enumerators' judgments about literacy were stricter in 1981 than in 1971, reflecting increases in the quality of literacy.

Statement 6 : Literacy rates by age cohort, 1961-1981, INDIA*

Sex	Cohort (age in 1961)	Cohort literacy rates in		
		1961	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5
Persons	5—9	19.6	51.4	47.6
	10—14	42.2	44.7	42.2
	15—24	35.9	34.8	NA
Males	5—9	24.8	63.5	62.8
	10—14	54.4	60.7	58.3
	15—24	50.8	50.1	NA
Females	5—9	14.2	37.7	31.9
	10—14	28.3	28.7	25.4
	15—24	20.8	19.3	NA

*Excludes Assam.

NA means not available.

The quality of literacy relates to the educational composition of literacy. Although the census definition of literacy has not changed in recent decades, the meaning of literacy has changed in terms of the composition of literates by educational level, which is shown in Statement 7 for 1971 and 1981.

Categories of educational attainment used here are less than primary, primary (completed primary but less than middle), middle (completed middle but less than matriculation or higher secondary) matriculation or higher secondary (completed

matriculation or higher secondary but less than graduate), and graduate and above (bachelor's or higher).

Statement 7 : Per cent distribution of literates by sex and highest educational level completed, 1971 and 1981, INDIA*

Highest educational level completed	Persons		Males		Females	
	1971	1981	1971	1981	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total literates	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than primary	32.8	30.7	31.2	29.4	36.5	33.4
Primary	35.7	31.5	34.6	30.3	38.2	34.0
Middle	17.7	17.6	18.7	18.0	15.6	16.8
Matriculation or higher secondary	11.7	16.3	13.1	17.9	8.3	12.8
Graduate and above	2.1	3.9	2.4	4.4	1.4	3.0

*Excludes Assam.

For literate males and literate persons of both sexes together, the proportions with less than matric went down and the proportions with matric or more went up. For literate females, the proportions with less than middle went down and the proportions with middle or more went up. Thus the quality of literacy has been improving as the general level of education has improved.

LITERACY RATES FOR STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

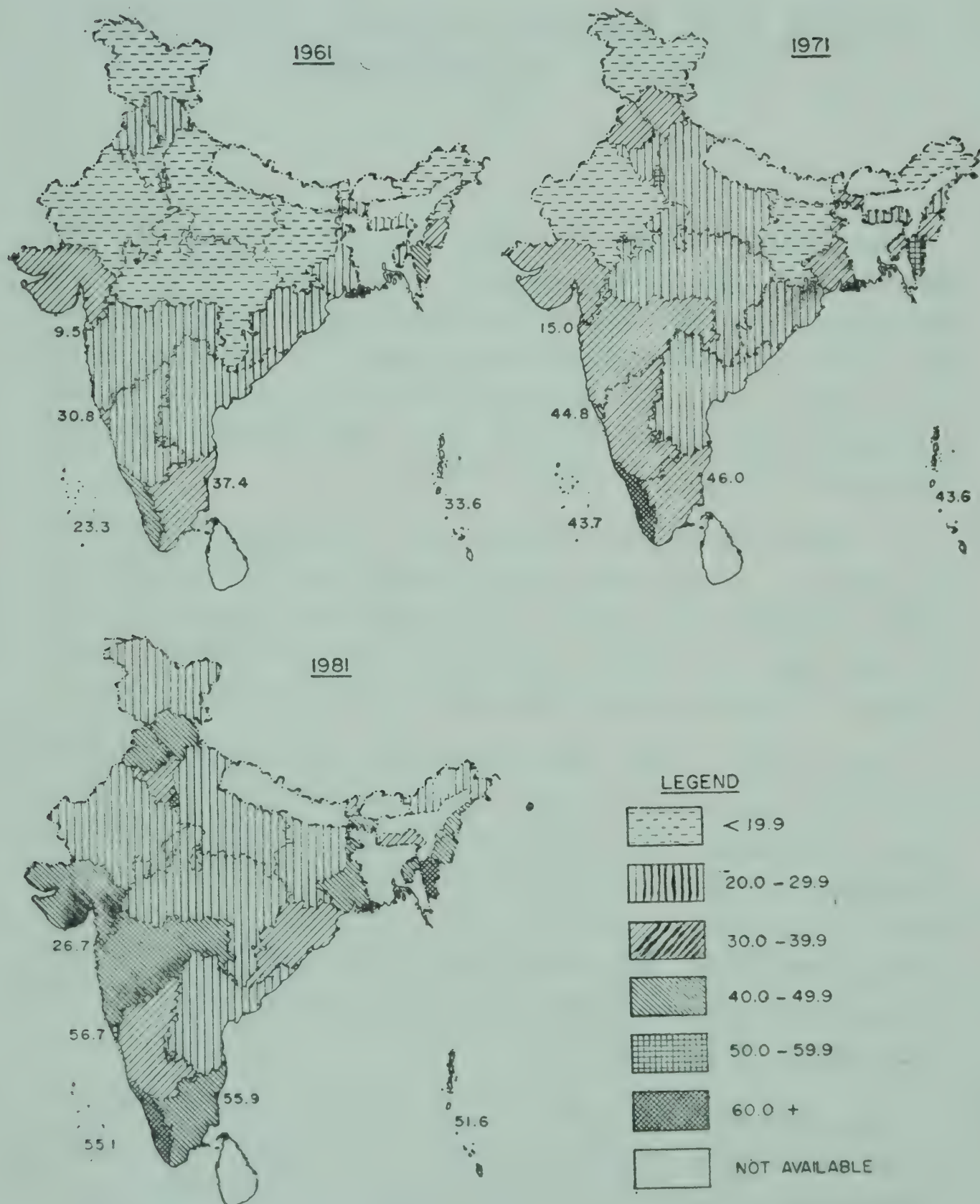
The literacy trends of states and union territories (UTs) present quite a diversified pattern. Statement 8 shows these trends for the period 1961-81, as well as rankings of states and UTs by literacy rate for each census year. The rankings, which are for states and UTs combined, range from 1 to 30, with rank 1 indicating the highest literacy rate. The literacy rates for states and UTs are also shown in Map 1.

In 1961 the highest literacy rate was recorded in Delhi, at 53 per cent, and the lowest in Arunachal Pradesh, at 7 per cent. Delhi, Chandigarh, Kerala and Mizoram had rates exceeding 40 per cent. Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim had rates below 15 per cent.

Among the 14 states with 12 million or more population (referred to hereafter as major states and indicated by boldface type in Statement 8 and subsequent statements), Kerala had the highest literacy rate in 1961, at 47 per cent, and Rajasthan had the lowest, at 15 per cent. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal had rates exceeding 29 per cent. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan all had rates below 19 per cent.

By 1981 Kerala, with a literacy rate of 70 per cent, surpassed Delhi, which had fallen to third place behind Chandigarh. Arunachal Pradesh still had the lowest rate, at 21 per cent (up from 7 per cent in 1961). For the most part, the rankings of states and UTs did not change much between 1961 and 1981. This is evident not only from entries in Statement

MAP 1
LITERACY RATES OF STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES
1961, 1971 AND 1981



Statement 8 : Literacy rates for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	Population in 1981 (million)	Literacy rate			Rank		
		1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
INDIA*	665.29	24.0	29.5	36.2			
<i>States</i>							
1 Andhra Pradesh	53.55	21.1	24.6	29.9	19	22	23
2 Bihar	69.91	18.4	19.9	26.2	22	25	28
3 Gujarat	34.09	30.5	35.8	43.7	9	11	11
4 Haryana	12.92	19.9	26.9	36.1	21	20	19
5 Himachal Pradesh	4.28	21.3	32.0	42.5	18	15	13
6 Jammu & Kashmir	5.99	11.0	18.6	26.7	28	27	26
7 Karnataka	37.14	25.4	31.5	38.5	15	16	18
8 Kerala	25.45	46.8	60.4	70.4	3	2	1
9 Madhya Pradesh	52.18	17.1	22.1	27.9	25	23	24
10 Maharashtra	62.79	29.8	39.2	47.2	11	10	9
11 Manipur	1.42	30.4	32.9	41.4	10	14	15
12 Meghalaya	1.34	26.9	29.5	34.1	13	18	21
13 Nagaland	0.77	17.9	27.4	42.6	23	19	12
14 Orissa	26.37	21.7	26.2	34.2	17	21	20
15 Punjab	16.79	26.7	33.7	40.9	14	12	17
16 Rajasthan	34.26	15.2	19.1	24.4	26	26	29
17 Sikkim	0.32	12.3	17.7	34.1	27	28	12
18 Tamil Nadu	48.41	31.4	39.5	46.8	7	9	12
19 Tripura	2.05	20.2	31.0	42.1	20	17	20
20 Uttar Pradesh	110.86	17.6	21.7	27.2	24	24	14
21 West Bengal	54.58	29.3	33.2	40.9	12	13	65
<i>Union territories</i>							
1 A & N Islands	0.19	33.6	43.6	51.6	6	8	8
2 Arunachal Pradesh	0.63	7.1	11.3	20.8	30	30	30
3 Chandigarh	0.45	51.1	61.6	64.8	2	1	2
4 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.10	9.5	15.0	26.7	29	29	27
5 Delhi	6.22	52.7	56.6	61.5	1	3	3
6 Goa, Daman & Diu	1.09	30.8	44.8	56.7	8	6	5
7 Lakshadweep	0.04	23.3	43.7	55.1	16	7	7
8 Mizoram	0.50	44.0	53.8	59.9	4	4	4
9 Pondicherry	0.60	37.4	46.0	55.9	5	5	6

*Excludes Assam.

Note: The 14 most populous states are indicated in boldface.

but also from correlation coefficients that can be calculated from these entries. For example, the correlation between literacy rate in 1961 and literacy rate in 1981 is .89, and the correlation between ranking in 1961 and ranking in 1981 is .88. Statement 8 shows that noteworthy improvements in ranking of five ranks or more occurred in Nagaland, Lakshadweep, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim. Noteworthy declines in ranking of five ranks or more occurred in Meghalaya, Bihar and Manipur.

Despite these changes in ranking, all the states and UTs registered absolute gains in literacy rates between 1961 and 1981. By 1981 the literacy rate exceeded 50 per cent in Kerala, Chandigarh, Delhi, Mizoram, Goa, Daman & Diu, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. However, among major states only Kerala exceeded 50 per cent. The two most populous states, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, had literacy rates of only 27 per cent and 26 per cent in 1981, and together they accounted for more than 27 per cent of the country's population (excluding Assam).

Statement 9 summarizes the statistics given in Statement 8 and Table 1 in a somewhat different way, by showing the

Statement 9 : Per cent distribution of total population and literates by literacy rate of state or union territory (excluding Assam) in which population resides, 1961-1981

State or union territory	1961			1971			1981		
	No. of states & UTs	Popu- lation	Liter- ates	No. of states & UTs	Popu- lation	Liter- ates	No. of states & UTs	Popu- lation	Liter- ates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total	30	100.0	100.0	30	100.0	100.0	30	100.0	100.0
<30	20	82.3	73.8	13	55.7	41.4	8	49.2	37.0
30—39	6	13.1	17.0	9	39.7	48.3	5	11.7	11.8
40—49	2	4.0	7.8	4	0.3	0.4	9	33.9	41.5
50—59	2	0.6	1.4	2	0.8	1.6	5	0.4	0.6
>60	...	...	...	2	4.1	8.3	3	4.8	9.1

distribution of state and UT populations by state or UT literacy rate. In 1961, 82 per cent of the population of the country lived in 20 states and UTs where the literacy rate was less than 30 per cent, and about 5 per cent lived in four states and UTs where the literacy rate was more than 40 per cent. By 1981, these two proportions had changed to 49 per cent and 39 per cent, reflecting increases in literacy rates in all states and UTs.

The following two subsections examine in more detail sex differentials and urban-rural differentials in literacy rates in states and union territories. Tables 1 and 2 at the end of this study contain the detailed census tabulations from which this discussion is drawn.

Sex differentials in literacy rates

Statements 10-12 present a statistical picture of sex differentials in literacy rates for states and UTs. Statement 10 shows that in every state and UT male literacy rates exceeded female literacy rates by a considerable margin. However, there is considerable variability in the size of this margin.

For each sex separately, Statement 11 ranks states and UTs by literacy rate for 1981. The statement shows that the state and UT rankings by male literacy rate and the rankings by female literacy rate were quite similar. This is also indicated by correlation coefficients computed from the figures presented in the statement. The correlation between male literacy rate and female literacy rate is .95, and the correlation between male and female rankings in Statement 11 is .94. Some states and UTs indicate different rankings for males and females. States and UTs where males rank higher than females by at least four ranks were Manipur and Madhya Pradesh. States and UTs where females rank higher than males by at least four ranks were Meghalaya, Punjab, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir and Mizoram.

Statement 10 : Literacy rates by sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	1961		1971		1981	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INDIA*	34.4	12.9	39.5	18.7	46.9	24.8
<i>States</i>						
1 Andhra Pradesh	30.2	12.0	33.2	15.8	39.3	20.4
2 Bihar	29.8	6.9	30.6	8.7	38.1	13.6
3 Gujarat	41.1	19.1	46.1	24.8	54.4	32.3
4 Haryana	29.2	9.2	37.3	14.9	48.2	22.3
5 Himachal Pradesh	32.3	9.5	43.2	20.2	53.2	31.5
6 Jammu & Kashmir	17.0	4.3	26.8	9.3	36.3	15.9
7 Karnataka	36.1	14.2	41.6	21.0	48.8	27.7
8 Kerala	55.0	38.9	66.6	44.3	75.3	65.7
9 Madhya Pradesh	27.0	6.7	32.7	10.9	39.5	15.5
10 Maharashtra	42.2	16.8	51.0	26.4	58.8	34.8
11 Manipur	45.1	15.9	46.0	19.5	53.3	29.1
12 Meghalaya	32.3	21.2	34.1	24.6	37.9	30.1
13 Nagaland	23.7	11.3	35.0	18.7	50.1	33.9
14 Orissa	34.7	8.6	38.3	13.9	47.1	21.2
15 Punjab	34.7	17.4	40.4	25.9	47.2	31.7
16 Rajasthan	23.7	5.8	28.7	8.5	36.3	11.4
17 Sikkim	19.6	4.3	25.4	8.9	43.9	22.2
18 Tamil Nadu	44.5	18.2	51.8	26.9	58.3	35.0
19 Tripura	29.6	10.2	40.2	21.2	51.7	32.0
20 Uttar Pradesh	27.3	7.0	31.5	10.6	38.8	14.0
21 West Bengal	40.1	17.0	42.8	22.4	50.7	30.3
<i>Union territories</i>						
1 A & N Islands	42.4	19.4	51.6	31.1	58.7	42.1
2 Arunachal Pradesh	12.2	1.4	17.8	3.7	28.9	11.3
3 Chandigarh	57.0	42.0	67.0	54.3	69.0	59.3
4 Dadra&Nagar Haveli	14.7	4.1	22.2	7.8	36.3	16.8
5 Delhi	60.8	42.5	63.7	47.7	68.4	53.1
6 Goa, Daman & Diu	39.0	23.0	54.3	35.1	65.6	47.6
7 Lakshadweep	35.8	11.0	56.5	30.6	65.2	44.6
8 Mizoram	53.4	34.7	60.5	46.7	64.5	54.9
9 Pondicherry	50.4	24.6	57.3	34.6	65.8	45.7

*Excludes Assam.

Note : The 14 most populous states are indicated in boldface.

Statement 11 : Literacy rates and ranks by sex for states and union territories, 1981

India/state/ union territory	Literacy rate		Rank	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA*	46.9	24.8		
<i>States</i>				
1 Andhra Pradesh	39.3	20.4	23	23
2 Bihar	38.1	13.6	25	28
3 Gujarat	54.4	32.3	11	13
4 Haryana	48.2	22.3	18	20
5 Himachal Pradesh	53.2	31.5	13	15
6 Jammu & Kashmir	36.3	15.9	29	25
7 Karnataka	48.8	27.7	17	19
8 Kerala	75.3	65.7	1	1
9 Madhya Pradesh	39.5	15.5	22	26
10 Maharashtra	58.8	34.8	8	10
11 Manipur	53.3	29.1	12	18
12 Meghalaya	37.9	30.1	26	17
13 Nagaland	50.1	33.9	16	21
14 Orissa	47.1	21.2	20	12
15 Punjab	47.2	33.7	19	12
16 Rajasthan	36.3	11.4	28	29
17 Sikkim	43.9	22.2	21	21
18 Tamil Nadu	58.3	35.0	10	9
19 Tripura	51.7	32.0	14	14
20 Uttar Pradesh	38.8	14.0	24	27
21 West Bengal	50.7	30.3	15	16
<i>Union territories</i>				
1 A & N Islands	58.7	42.1	9	8
2 Arunachal Pradesh	28.9	11.3	30	30
3 Chandigarh	69.0	59.3	2	2
4 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	36.3	16.8	27	24
5 Delhi	68.4	53.1	3	4
6 Goa, Daman & Diu	65.6	47.6	5	5
7 Lakshadweep	65.2	44.6	6	7
8 Mizoram	64.5	54.9	7	3
9 Pondicherry	65.8	45.7	4	6

*Excludes Assam.

Note : The 14 most populous states are indicated in boldface.

Statement 12 presents two indices of the male-female differential in literacy, namely the male-female difference in literacy rates and the female/male ratio of literacy rates, the latter expressed as a percentage. The closer this percentage is to 100 per cent, the narrower is the sex differential in literacy rates; thus the sex differential in literacy rates is more properly viewed as the difference between 100 per cent and the female/male ratio of literacy rates, rather than the female/male ratio of literacy rates itself.

The male-female ratio of literacy rates increased between 1961 and 1981 for every state and UT. But when the male-female difference in literacy rates is used, a somewhat different picture emerges. The trend in this index was sometimes upward, and sometimes downward, with a tendency to be upward in states or UTs with low literacy rates and downward in states or UTs with high literacy rates. The two indices can show quite different results because at low levels of literacy a small male-female difference is compatible with either a high or a low female-male ratio, whereas at high levels of literacy a small male-female difference necessarily means a female-male ratio close to one. Therefore, in a particular state or UT the trend in the male-female difference may indicate a widening sex differential even while the trend in the female-male ratio simultaneously indicates a narrowing sex differential. Although both indices are useful, the female-male ratio of literacy rates is a better measure of the relative "risk" of being literate than the male-female difference in literacy rates. States and UTs in which both indices indicate a narrowing sex differential in literacy rates were Mizoram, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Pondicherry, Chandigarh, Manipur, Lakshadweep, Punjab, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa. Kerala had the smallest sex differential on both indices. States where the male-female difference in literacy rates widened by more than 5 percentage points between 1961 and 1981 were Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Haryana.

Statement 12 : Male-female differential in literacy rates for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	Male-female differ- ence in literacy rate			Female/male ratio of literacy rates		
	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INDIA*	21.5	20.8	21.1	37.5	47.3	52.9
<i>States</i>						
1 Andhra Pradesh	18.2	17.4	18.9	39.8	47.5	51.9
2 Bihar	22.9	21.9	24.5	23.1	28.5	35.7
3 Gujarat	22.0	21.4	22.1	46.4	53.7	59.3
4 Haryana	20.0	22.4	25.9	31.5	39.9	46.2
5 Himachal Pradesh	22.8	23.0	21.7	29.4	46.8	59.1
6 Jammu & Kashmir	12.7	17.5	20.4	25.1	34.7	43.8
7 Karnataka	21.9	20.7	21.1	39.3	50.4	56.8
8 Kerala	16.1	12.3	9.6	70.8	81.5	87.3
9 Madhya Pradesh	20.3	21.8	24.0	24.9	33.4	39.3
10 Maharashtra	25.2	24.6	24.0	39.9	51.8	59.2
11 Manipur	29.2	26.5	24.2	35.3	42.4	54.5
12 Meghalaya	11.1	9.5	7.8	65.4	72.0	79.4
13 Nagaland	12.4	16.3	16.2	47.9	53.3	67.7
14 Orissa	26.1	24.4	25.9	24.9	36.4	44.8
15 Punjab	17.3	14.5	13.5	50.2	64.1	71.4
16 Rajasthan	17.9	20.2	24.9	24.6	29.4	31.5
17 Sikkim	15.3	16.5	21.7	21.7	35.1	50.5
18 Tamil Nadu	26.3	24.9	23.3	40.8	51.9	60.0
19 Tripura	19.4	19.0	19.7	34.4	52.7	61.9
20 Uttar Pradesh	20.3	20.9	24.8	25.7	33.5	36.2
21 West Bengal	23.1	20.4	20.4	42.4	52.4	59.7
<i>Union territories</i>						
1 A & N Islands	23.0	20.5	16.6	45.7	60.2	71.8
2 Arunachal Pradesh	10.8	14.1	17.6	11.6	20.8	39.1
3 Chandigarh	15.0	12.7	9.7	73.7	81.2	86.0
4 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	10.6	14.4	19.5	27.5	35.3	46.2
5 Delhi	18.3	16.0	15.3	70.0	74.9	77.6
6 Goa, Daman & Diu	16.0	19.2	18.0	59.0	64.6	72.5
7 Lakshadweep	24.8	25.9	20.6	30.7	54.1	68.4
8 Mizoram	18.7	13.8	9.6	65.0	77.2	85.2
9 Pondicherry	25.8	22.7	20.1	48.9	60.4	69.4

*Excludes Assam.

Note : The 14 most populous states are indicated in boldface.

Urban-rural differentials in literacy rates

Statements 13-15 present a statistical picture of urban-rural differentials in literacy rates for states and UTs. Statement 13 shows that in every state and UT that was not entirely rural, urban literacy rates exceed rural literacy rates by a considerable margin. Again, however, there was considerable variability in the size of this margin.

It should be noted that reclassification of formerly rural areas to urban status affects the results presented here. The rural areas reclassified as urban tend to have higher literacy rates than the rural average but lower literacy rates than the urban average. Thus reclassification tends to lower both rural and urban literacy rates.

For urban and rural areas separately, Statement 14 ranks states and UTs by literacy rate for 1981. Statement 14 also shows that the state and UT rankings by urban literacy rate and the ranking by rural literacy rate are quite similar, but not as similar as in the case of the two sexes. The correlation between the urban literacy rate and the rural literacy rate is .80, and the correlation between urban and rural rankings is .82. States and UTs where the urban ranking was higher than the rural ranking by at least four ranks were Meghalaya, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal. States and UTs where the rural ranking was higher than the urban ranking by at least four ranks were Lakshadweep, Manipur, Delhi, Pondicherry, Uttar Pradesh and Goa, Daman & Diu. In this latter group, Delhi had a small rural population that was in fact highly urbanized.

Statement 15 presents two indices of the urban-rural differential in literacy rates, namely the urban-rural difference in literacy rates and the rural/urban ratio of literacy rates, the latter again expressed as a percentage. As in the case of sex differentials, the ratio measure invariably increased over time, but the difference measure sometimes increased and sometimes decreased. The reasons for this pattern are essentially the same as before. In almost all states and UTs both measure indicate

Statement 13 : Literacy rates by rural-urban residence for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	1961		1971		1981	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INDIA*	18.8	46.9	23.7	52.4	29.7	57.4
<i>States</i>						
1 Andhra Pradesh	16.8	41.8	19.2	47.1	23.2	52.0
2 Bihar	16.1	43.2	17.2	44.9	22.5	52.2
3 Gujarat	24.1	48.8	28.3	54.9	36.2	60.3
4 Haryana	14.8	44.7	21.7	51.0	30.3	56.9
5 Himachal Pradesh	18.7	58.8	29.8	60.5	40.4	67.4
6 Jammu & Kashmir	7.6	28.3	14.1	38.2	21.6	45.6
7 Karnataka	20.0	44.2	25.1	51.4	31.0	56.7
8 Kerala	45.4	54.9	59.3	66.3	69.1	76.1
9 Madhya Pradesh	12.7	43.5	16.8	49.5	21.2	54.0
10 Maharashtra	21.5	51.1	30.6	58.1	38.2	63.9
11 Manipur	28.5	50.8	29.8	53.2	37.4	52.4
12 Meghalaya	20.8	60.9	23.4	65.2	27.5	64.1
13 Nagaland	15.8	56.1	23.7	60.8	38.6	64.2
14 Orissa	20.1	44.2	24.1	49.0	31.5	54.8
15 Punjab	20.4	47.8	27.8	52.5	35.2	55.6
16 Rajasthan	10.9	37.6	13.8	43.5	18.0	48.4
17 Sikkim	11.1	40.6	14.8	46.2	30.0	54.9
18 Tamil Nadu	24.7	49.9	32.1	56.4	38.6	63.4
19 Tripura	17.1	52.1	27.1	64.0	38.2	73.7
20 Uttar Pradesh	14.3	40.1	18.1	43.6	23.1	45.9
21 West Bengal	21.6	52.9	25.7	55.9	33.1	62.7
<i>Union territories</i>						
1 A & N Islands	28.9	50.2	38.3	61.5	46.6	65.5
2 Arunachal Pradesh	7.1	ER	9.8	50.5	18.5	53.2
3 Chandigarh	20.3	57.4	30.5	64.8	44.7	66.2
4 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9.5	ER	15.0	ER	24.7	54.2
5 Delhi	25.1	56.2	36.2	58.9	47.6	62.6
6 Goa, Daman & Diu	27.5	47.7	40.6	56.3	52.7	65.0
7 Lakshadweep	23.3	ER	43.7	ER	52.0	58.7
8 Mizoram	42.8	66.1	51.4	72.5	55.2	74.1
9 Pondicherry	31.3	56.6	38.6	56.2	48.0	63.0

*Excludes Assam.

ER means entirely rural

Note : The 14 most populous states are indicated in boldface.

Statement 14 : Literacy rates and ranks by rural-urban residence for states and union territories, 1981

India/state/ union territory	Literacy rate		Rank	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA*	29.7	57.4		
<i>States</i>				
1 Andhra Pradesh	23.2	52.0	24	27
2 Bihar	22.5	52.2	26	26
3 Gujarat	36.2	60.3	15	15
4 Haryana	30.3	56.9	20	17
5 Himachal Pradesh	40.4	67.4	9	4
6 Jammu & Kashmir	21.6	45.5	27	30
7 Karnataka	31.0	56.7	19	18
8 Kerala	69.1	76.1	1	1
9 Madhya Pradesh	21.2	54.0	28	23
10 Maharashtra	38.2	63.9	13	10
11 Manipur	34.4	52.4	14	15
12 Meghalaya	27.5	64.1	22	9
13 Nagaland	38.6	64.2	15	8
14 Orissa	31.5	54.8	18	21
15 Punjab	35.2	55.6	16	19
16 Rajasthan	18.0	48.4	30	28
17 Sikkim	30.0	54.9	21	90
18 Tamil Nadu	38.6	68.4	11	11
19 Tripura	38.2	73.7	12	3
20 Uttar Pradesh	23.1	45.9	25	29
21 West Bengal	33.1	63.7	17	13
<i>Union territories</i>				
1 A & N Islands	46.6	65.5	7	6
2 Arunachal Pradesh	18.5	53.2	29	24
3 Chandigarh	44.7	66.2	8	5
4 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	24.7	54.2	23	22
5 Delhi	47.6	62.6	6	14
6 Goa, Daman & Diu	52.7	65.0	3	7
7 Lakshadweep	52.0	58.7	4	16
8 Mizoram	55.2	74.1	2	2
9 Pondicherry	48.0	63.0	5	12

*Excludes Assam.

Note : The 14 most populous states are indicated in boldface.

Statement 15 : Urban-rural differential in literacy rates for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	Urban-rural difference in literacy rate			Rural/urban ratio of literacy rate		
	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INDIA*	28.1	28.7	27.7	40.2	45.2	51.7
<i>States</i>						
1 Andhra Pradesh	25.0	27.9	28.8	40.3	40.8	44.7
2 Bihar	27.1	27.7	29.7	37.3	38.2	43.1
3 Gujarat	24.7	26.6	24.1	49.4	51.6	60.0
4 Haryana	29.9	29.3	26.6	33.0	42.6	53.3
5 Himachal Pd.	40.1	30.7	27.0	31.9	49.2	59.9
6 Jammu & Kashmir	20.7	24.1	24.0	26.9	3.70	47.5
7 Karnataka	24.2	26.3	25.7	45.2	48.9	54.8
8 Kerala	9.5	7.0	7.0	82.7	89.4	90.8
9 Madhya Pradesh	30.8	32.7	32.8	29.3	33.9	39.3
10 Maharashtra	29.6	27.5	25.7	42.0	52.7	59.7
11 Manipur	22.3	23.4	15.0	56.1	56.0	71.3
12 Meghalaya	40.1	41.8	36.6	34.1	35.9	42.8
13 Nagaland	40.3	37.1	25.6	28.2	39.0	60.1
14 Orissa	24.1	24.9	23.3	45.6	49.2	57.5
15 Punjab	27.4	24.7	20.4	42.7	53.0	63.3
16 Rajasthan	26.7	29.7	30.4	28.8	31.9	37.2
17 Sikkim	29.5	31.4	24.9	27.3	32.1	54.8
18 Tamil Nadu	25.2	24.3	24.8	49.4	57.0	60.8
19 Tripura	35.0	36.9	35.5	32.8	42.4	51.3
20 Uttar Pradesh	25.8	25.5	22.8	38.8	41.6	50.9
21 West Bengal	31.3	30.2	29.6	40.9	46.0	52.9

Statement 15: Urban-rural differential in literacy rates for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	Urban-rural difference in literacy rate			Rural/urban ratio of literacy rate		
	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Union territories</i>						
1 A & N Islands	21.3	23.2	18.9	57.7	62.3	71.1
2 Arunachal Pradesh	ER	40.7	34.7	ER	19.4	34.8
3 Chandigarh	37.1	34.3	21.5	35.4	47.1	67.6
4 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	ER	ER	29.5	ER	ER	45.6
5 Delhi	31.1	22.7	15.0	44.7	61.5	75.9
6 Goa, Daman & Diu	20.2	15.7	12.3	57.7	72.1	81.1
7 Lakshadweep	ER	ER	6.7	ER	ER	88.6
8 Mizoram	23.3	21.1	18.9	64.7	70.9	74.6
9 Pondicherry	25.3	17.6	15.0	55.3	68.6	76.1

*Excludes Assam.

ER means entirely rural.

Note : The 14 most populous states are indicated in boldface.

a narrowing urban-rural differential. States and UTs where the urban-rural difference in literacy rates increased between 1961 and 1981 were Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Tripura. In 1981 Kerala had the narrowest urban-rural differential in literacy rates on the ratio measure and Lakshadweep had the narrowest differential on the difference measure. The differences between Kerala and Lakshadweep on the two measures was very small.

FURTHER ANALYSIS OF LITERACY RATES FOR MAJOR STATES

Because processing of the 1981 Census was not complete for all the states and UTs at the time of this writing, some tabulations are available only for major states from the 5 per cent advance tabulation. In this section we consider age differentials in literacy rates, the quality of literates in terms of their composition by educational attainment, and socio-economic correlates of literacy for 14 major states.

Age differentials in literacy rates

As mentioned in an earlier section, the increase in literacy rates over time has meant that younger age groups tend to have higher literacy rates than older age groups. In examining age differentials in literacy rates for major states, we considered age-specific literacy rates in age groups 5-9, 10-14, and 15-19, which encompass most of the school-going population. Of particular interest is the age group 10-14, in which literacy rates were highest.

Statement 16 presents literacy rates for these three age groups by sex for the period 1961-81 for major states. In all of these states, literacy rates increased substantially between 1961 and 1981. As in the case of all-India, examined earlier, literacy rates were considerably higher at ages 10-14 and 15-19 than at 5-9, for reasons already given. The rates at ages 10-14 and 15-19 were also considerably higher than the crude literacy rates examined previously.

Statement 16 : Age-specific literacy rates by sex for major states, 1961-1981

India/state	Persons			Males			Females		
	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Age group 5—9									
INDIA*	19.6	23.2	30.6	24.8	27.3	35.1	14.2	18.9	25.8
1 Andhra Pd.	18.7	20.6	29.9	23.5	24.5	34.8	14.1	16.8	24.9
2 Bihar	16.7	14.2	21.7	23.9	19.1	27.6	8.9	8.9	15.5
3 Gujarat	25.2	26.9	39.9	30.1	30.8	44.4	20.0	22.7	35.0
4 Haryana	NA	21.1	32.8	NA	26.3	39.0	NA	15.0	25.7
5 Karnataka	22.7	28.3	35.4	28.1	33.0	39.8	17.5	23.6	30.6
6 Kerala	30.7	53.0	64.9	31.7	53.5	64.8	29.7	52.5	65.0
7 Madhya Pd.	14.4	15.2	20.3	20.0	19.5	25.1	8.7	10.8	15.3
8 Maharashtra	23.4	31.7	44.6	28.3	36.1	48.8	18.5	27.1	40.2
9 Orissa	19.4	19.5	26.8	26.2	24.7	32.0	12.8	14.5	21.8
10 Punjab	NA	30.9	43.4	NA	33.1	45.2	NA	28.4	41.4
11 Rajasthan	13.2	13.9	17.6	18.9	18.9	23.4	7.0	8.4	11.4
12 Tamil Nadu	33.6	40.4	46.9	39.6	44.6	50.2	27.6	36.1	43.5
13 Uttar Pd.	13.4	15.9	21.1	18.8	20.4	26.7	7.3	10.7	14.6
14 West Bengal	17.8	22.5	28.1	21.5	25.9	31.2	14.0	19.1	24.9
Age group 10—14									
INDIA*	42.2	49.8	56.6	54.4	60.1	66.9	28.3	38.2	44.8
1 Andhra Pd.	36.0	39.4	47.9	45.6	47.1	57.4	25.5	31.2	37.8
2 Bihar	33.6	34.4	44.5	49.1	47.2	57.4	15.5	19.2	29.1
3 Gujarat	55.5	58.4	67.7	67.4	68.8	76.6	41.7	46.5	57.5
4 Haryana	NA	51.7	60.6	NA	68.0	75.8	NA	32.5	43.2
5 Karnataka	41.9	50.4	57.7	53.9	60.5	67.1	29.5	40.2	48.1
6 Kerala	74.2	89.3	95.5	78.5	91.3	96.2	69.9	87.2	94.8
7 Madhya Pd.	34.4	40.1	45.6	48.5	52.7	58.5	17.7	25.5	31.2
8 Maharashtra	54.6	66.6	72.1	68.0	76.5	80.7	39.5	55.7	62.8
9 Orissa	35.8	41.3	51.7	49.7	51.8	63.8	20.0	29.7	39.3
10 Punjab	NA	61.2	69.9	NA	66.3	74.5	NA	55.3	64.8
11 Rajasthan	29.3	35.6	41.0	43.0	50.5	58.5	12.8	18.1	21.4
12 Tamil Nadu	50.8	64.4	70.5	63.4	74.9	79.2	37.7	53.6	61.5
13 Uttar Pd.	32.2	41.4	47.4	46.2	54.5	61.4	15.1	24.9	29.8
14 West Bengal	45.8	50.7	55.9	54.3	57.5	62.3	35.5	43.1	49.0

Statement 16 : Age-specific literacy rates by sex for major states, 1961-1981

India/state	Persons			Males			Females		
	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Age group 15—19									
INDIA*	38.4	51.4	55.4	52.0	63.5	66.1	23.7	37.7	43.3
1 Andhra Pd.	33.3	40.9	44.3	44.2	50.3	53.1	22.2	31.0	35.1
2 Bihar	29.8	36.0	42.0	46.6	52.0	56.9	12.6	18.0	24.6
3 Gujarat	48.3	58.3	63.1	61.4	69.7	73.3	33.4	45.3	51.7
4 Haryana	NA	50.2	57.1	NA	66.4	72.0	NA	30.8	38.6
5 Karnataka	38.7	50.7	55.3	50.5	60.5	63.8	26.0	39.9	46.1
6 Kerala	73.0	87.0	93.0	80.0	90.6	94.6	66.5	83.5	91.4
7 Madhya Pd.	28.7	43.0	44.7	43.8	59.4	58.9	12.4	24.3	28.4
8 Maharashtra	49.5	67.7	69.3	66.1	79.7	78.5	31.2	53.3	58.5
9 Orissa	30.6	45.7	67.9	45.9	59.4	60.9	15.8	31.1	36.3
10 Punjab	NA	59.0	64.2	NA	64.9	68.3	NA	52.2	59.6
11 Rajasthan	24.5	35.8	40.9	36.4	51.2	57.7	10.7	17.6	20.8
12 Tamil Nadu	43.7	62.3	66.1	56.6	73.2	75.5	30.6	50.8	56.8
13 Uttar Pd.	30.6	42.0	47.3	45.3	57.3	62.5	13.5	23.1	27.9
14 West Bengal	45.3	54.5	56.3	58.8	64.5	63.7	30.7	42.7	48.4

*Excludes Assam.

NA means not available.

The trends for persons of both sexes at ages 10-14 show that in the state of Kerala literacy is approaching 100 per cent. States with literacy rates at ages 10-14 that were higher than 70 per cent included Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu, with Punjab close behind. States with literacy rates at 10-14 that were lower than 50 per cent included Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan. These five states accounted for approximately 48 per cent of the country's total population aged 10-14 in the 1981 Census.

Sex differentials in these age specific literacy rates tend to be smaller than the sex differentials in crude literacy rates examined earlier. This is shown in Statement 17. The sex differentials in age-specific literacy rates were especially small for age 5-9. But this is somewhat misleading, because for the same cohort the male-female difference in literacy rates tended to increase substantially over age and time, while the female/male ratio of literacy rates often declined or increased only marginally. This can be seen by comparing literacy rates at ages 5-9 in 1961 with literacy rates at ages 15-19 in 1971. The comparison indicates that the substantial gains in literacy between ages 5-9 and 15-19 within the same cohort favour males more than females. It is nevertheless of interest that sex differentials in literacy were very small at ages 5-9, and that in Kerala they even favoured females. But the sex differentials in literacy rates at ages 10-14 and 15-19 were clearly more indicative of the ultimate outcome for each cohort.

Focusing again on ages 10-14, we note that Kerala showed almost no differential between male and female literacy rates. States with a male-female difference in literacy rates that was less than 15 percentage points and a female/male ratio of literacy rates that was greater than 75 per cent include Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal, with Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Karnataka close behind. States with a male-female difference greater than 25 percentage points and a female/male ratio less than 55 included Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, with Haryana close behind. Literacy rates for 1961, 1971 and 1981, by sex for major states, are also shown in Graph 3.

It should be noted that the age-specific data on literacy for the major states probably suffer to some extent from systematic errors of various kinds. This is especially evident when age cohorts are followed through time in successive censuses, as is done in Table 3 at the end of this study. For example, for Andhra Pradesh, population aged 30-34 in 1981 exceeded population aged 20-24 in 1971, but the number of literates aged 30-34 in 1981 was less than the number of literates aged 20-24

Statement 17 : Male-female difference in literacy rates and female literacy rate as per cent of male literacy rate among selected age groups for major states, 1961-1981

India/state	5—9			10—14			15—19		
	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Male-female difference in literacy rates

INDIA*	10.6	8.4	9.3	26.4	21.9	22.1	28.3	25.8	22.8
1 Andhra Pd.	9.4	7.7	9.9	20.1	15.9	19.6	20.0	19.3	18.0
2 Bihar	15.0	10.2	12.1	33.6	28.0	28.3	34.0	34.0	32.3
3 Gujarat	10.1	8.1	9.4	25.7	22.3	19.1	28.0	24.4	21.6
4 Haryana	NA	11.3	13.3	NA	25.5	32.6	NA	35.6	33.4
5 Karnataka	10.6	9.4	8.9	24.4	20.3	19.0	24.5	20.6	17.7
6 Kerala	2.0	1.0	—0.2	8.6	4.1	1.4	13.5	7.1	3.2
7 Madhya Pd.	11.3	8.7	9.8	30.8	27.2	27.3	31.4	35.1	30.5
8 Maharashtra	9.8	9.0	8.6	28.5	20.8	17.9	34.9	26.4	20.0
9 Orissa	13.4	10.2	10.2	29.7	22.1	24.5	30.1	28.3	24.6
10 Punjab	NA	4.7	3.8	NA	11.0	9.7	NA	12.7	8.7
11 Rajasthan	11.9	10.5	12.0	30.2	32.4	37.1	25.7	33.6	36.9
12 Tamil Nadu	12.0	8.5	6.7	25.7	21.3	17.7	26.0	22.4	18.7
13 Uttar Pradesh	11.5	9.7	12.1	31.1	29.6	31.6	31.8	34.2	34.6
14 West Bengal	7.5	6.8	6.3	18.8	14.4	13.3	28.1	21.8	15.3

Female literacy rate as per cent of male literacy rate

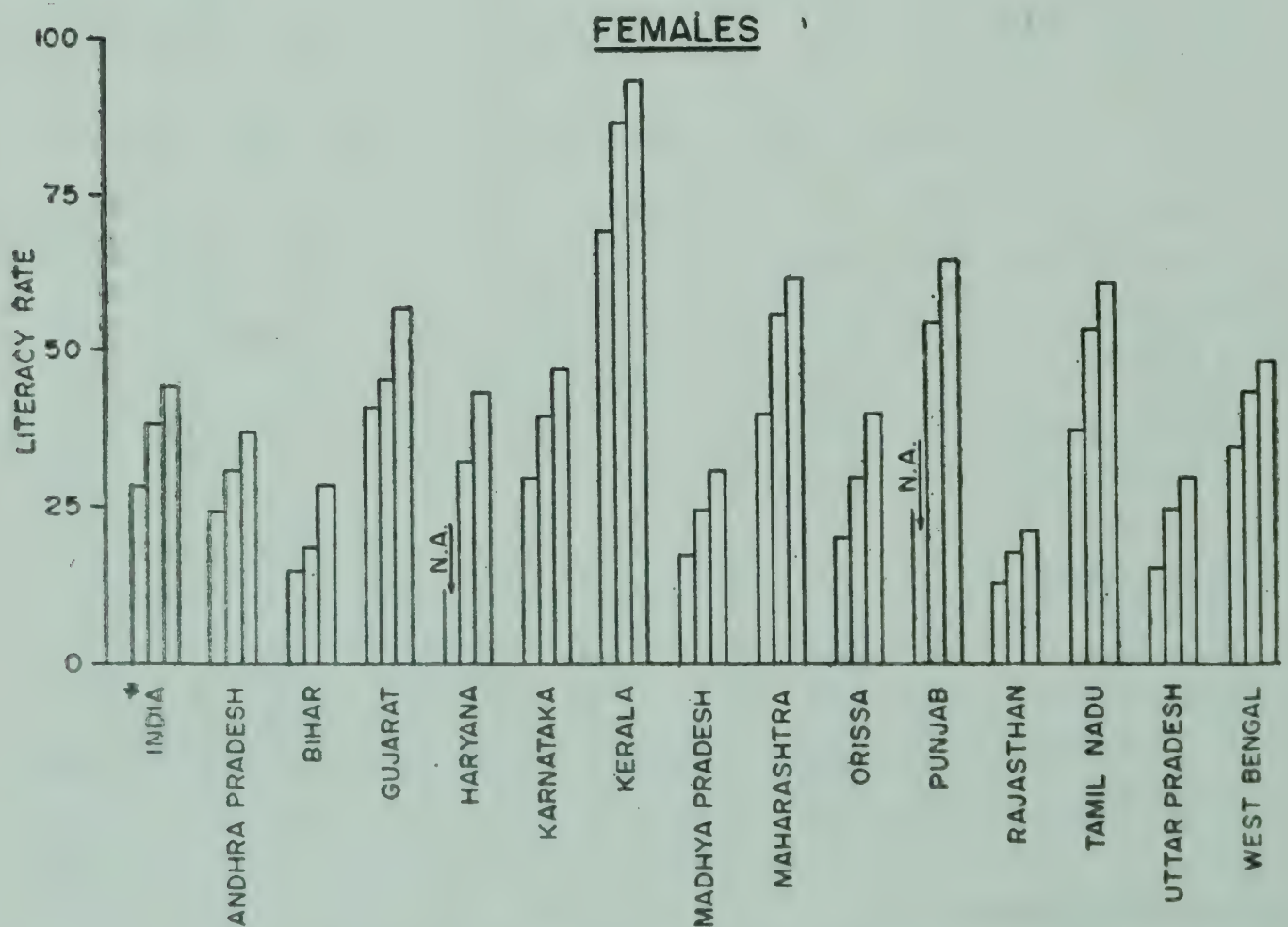
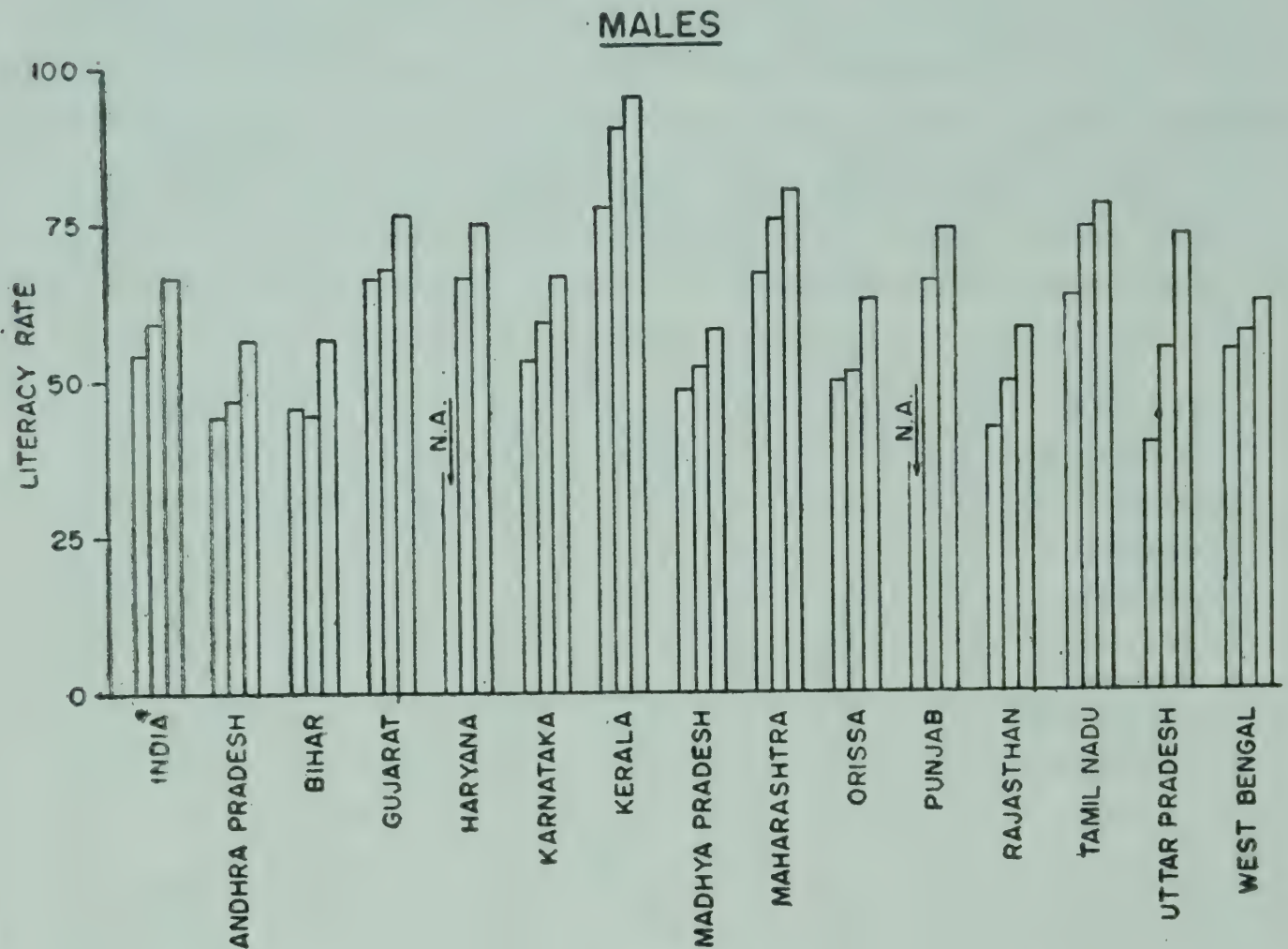
INDIA*	57.3	69.2	73.5	51.7	63.6	67.1	45.6	59.4	65.5
1 Andhra Pd.	60.0	68.6	71.6	55.9	66.2	65.9	50.2	61.6	66.1
2 Bihar	37.2	46.6	56.2	31.6	40.7	50.7	27.0	34.6	43.2
3 Gujarat	66.4	73.7	78.8	61.9	67.6	75.1	54.4	65.0	70.5
4 Haryana	NA	57.0	65.9	NA	47.8	57.0	NA	46.4	53.6
5 Karnataka	62.3	71.5	77.6	54.7	66.4	71.7	51.5	66.0	72.3
6 Kerala	93.7	98.1	100.3	89.0	95.5	98.5	83.1	92.2	96.6
7 Madhya Pd.	43.5	55.4	61.0	36.5	48.4	53.3	28.3	40.9	48.2
8 Maharashtra	65.4	75.1	82.4	58.1	72.8	77.8	47.2	66.9	74.5
9 Orissa	48.9	58.7	68.1	40.2	57.3	61.6	34.4	52.4	59.6
10 Punjab	NA	85.8	91.6	NA	83.4	87.0	NA	80.4	87.3
11 Rajasthan	37.0	44.4	48.7	29.8	35.8	36.6	29.4	34.4	36.0
12 Tamil Nadu	69.7	80.9	86.7	59.5	71.6	77.7	54.1	69.4	75.2
13 Uttar Pd.	38.8	52.5	54.7	32.7	45.7	48.5	29.8	40.3	44.6
14 West Bengal	65.1	73.7	79.8	65.4	75.0	78.7	52.2	66.2	76.0

*Excludes Assam.

NA means not available.

GRAPH 3

LITERACY RATE AMONG MALES AND FEMALES AGED 10-14 FOR
INDIA AND MAJOR STATES, 1961, 1971 AND 1981



* - EXCLUDES ASSAM, N.A.-NOT AVAILABLE

1st, 2nd AND 3rd BAR REPRESENTS 1961, 1971 AND 1981 RESPECTIVELY.

in 1971. A similar pattern is observed in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Possible sources of error include age misreporting (no doubt selective by literacy status), variation in the way the definition of literacy was applied in different censuses and by different states within the same census, different respondents in different censuses (as cohort members grow older, it becomes more likely that the person in the subsequent census becomes respondent and reports for himself), and sampling error (because the 1981 Census results presented here are based on a 5 per cent advance tabulation). An analysis of these errors is however beyond the scope of this study.

Quality of literacy

The general trend in the quality of literacy is that literates tend to be more highly educated, on the average, in later census years.

Categories of educational attainment used here are less than primary, primary (completed primary but less than middle), middle (completed middle but less than matriculation or higher secondary), matriculation or higher secondary (completed matriculation or higher secondary but less than graduate) and graduate and above (bachelor's or higher).

Typically the proportion of literates with less than primary or primary education tends to decline, and the proportion of literates with matriculation or higher secondary or more education tends to increase. This was found earlier for all-India, and, as Statements 18-20 show, it also tends to be true for most of the 14 major states.

There are some interesting differences among the major states, however. For example, Kerala, despite its high level of literacy, had the lowest proportion of literates in the graduate-and-above category. And Rajasthan, despite its low level of literacy, had a comparatively high proportion of literates in the graduate-and-above category. This comparison of Kerala and Rajasthan holds for both males and females. Evidently a

Statement 18 : Per cent distribution of literates by highest educational level completed for major states, *persons of both sexes*, 1971-81

India/state	Year	Total literates	Highest educational level completed				
			Less than primary	Primary	Middle	Matriculation or higher secondary	Graduate and above
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
INDIA*	1971	100.0	32.7	35.8	18.0	11.5	2.0
	1981	100.0	30.7	31.5	17.6	16.3	3.9
1 Andhra Pradesh	1971	100.0	28.0	43.3	15.9	11.1	1.7
	1981	100.0	20.9	41.0	19.0	15.7	3.4
2 Bihar	1971	100.0	38.1	20.7	27.3	11.7	2.2
	1981	100.0	33.9	20.2	23.4	19.2	3.3
3 Gujarat	1971	100.0	50.6	27.5	9.2	11.0	1.7
	1981	100.0	43.1	27.2	9.4	16.7	3.6
4 Haryana	1971	100.0	30.9	35.2	19.6	12.3	2.0
	1981	100.0	32.5	28.9	16.6	17.8	4.2
5 Karnataka	1971	100.0	18.6	46.5	19.3	14.0	1.6
	1981	100.0	26.7	31.8	20.7	17.2	3.6
6 Kerala	1971	100.0	30.8	42.3	16.9	8.9	1.1
	1981	100.0	28.8	32.5	24.4	12.3	2.0
7 Madhya Pradesh	1971	100.0	43.5	31.0	12.4	10.7	2.4
	1981	100.0	43.5	27.8	13.1	11.5	4.1
8 Maharashtra	1971	100.0	30.7	34.7	22.6	10.0	2.0
	1981	100.0	28.3	29.4	21.3	16.9	4.1
9 Orissa	1971	100.0	17.9	57.9	17.5	5.6	1.1
	1981	100.0	18.3	51.1	15.7	12.6	2.3
10 Punjab	1971	100.0	31.8	35.3	15.3	15.6	2.0
	1981	100.0	26.2	31.4	17.1	20.9	4.4
11 Rajasthan	1971	100.0	46.3	27.0	12.2	12.3	2.2
	1981	100.0	37.3	28.3	15.6	14.2	4.6
12 Tamil Nadu	1971	100.0	37.1	35.5	16.1	10.1	1.2
	1981	100.0	29.8	35.2	14.4	17.9	2.7
13 Uttar Pradesh	1971	100.0	31.0	36.7	16.4	13.6	2.3
	1981	100.0	33.1	28.9	16.2	16.9	4.9
14 West Bengal	1971	100.0	28.5	35.1	19.3	13.7	3.4
	1981	100.0	26.8	37.7	15.5	15.2	4.8

*Excludes Assam.

Statement 19: Per cent distribution of literates by highest educational level completed for major states, *males*, 1971-1981

India/state	Year	Highest educational level completed					
		Total literates	Less than primary	Primary	Middle	Matriculation or higher secondary	Graduate and above
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
INDIA*	1971	100.0	31.2	34.6	18.7	13.1	2.4
	1981	100.0	29.4	30.3	18.0	17.9	4.4
1 Andhra Pradesh	1971	100.0	25.7	41.8	17.0	13.3	2.2
	1981	100.0	19.7	39.0	19.3	17.8	4.2
2 Bihar	1971	100.0	35.6	19.7	28.7	13.4	2.6
	1981	100.0	31.1	19.4	23.7	22.0	3.8
3 Gujarat	1971	100.0	48.0	27.5	10.2	12.2	2.1
	1981	100.0	41.2	26.6	10.1	18.1	4.0
4 Haryana	1971	100.0	29.8	34.5	20.3	13.4	2.0
	1981	100.0	30.9	27.9	18.0	19.0	4.2
5 Karnataka	1971	100.0	17.1	45.9	19.3	15.7	2.0
	1981	100.0	25.0	31.3	20.5	18.8	4.4
6 Kerala	1971	100.0	29.8	41.8	17.2	9.8	1.4
	1981	100.0	28.5	32.1	24.5	12.6	2.3
7 Madhya Pradesh	1971	100.0	41.7	31.3	13.0	11.5	2.5
	1981	100.0	42.8	27.4	13.4	12.2	4.2
8 Maharashtra	1971	100.0	28.3	34.3	24.1	11.1	2.2
	1981	100.0	26.4	28.6	21.6	18.8	4.6
9 Orissa	1971	100.0	17.1	55.9	18.9	6.8	1.3
	1981	100.0	17.7	49.1	15.8	14.6	2.8
10 Punjab	1971	100.0	31.1	32.0	16.9	17.8	2.2
	1981	100.0	25.0	28.7	18.6	23.0	4.7
11 Rajasthan	1971	100.0	45.6	26.3	12.5	13.3	2.3
	1981	100.0	36.5	27.8	15.9	15.0	4.8
12 Tamil Nadu	1971	100.0	35.3	35.4	16.4	11.4	1.5
	1981	100.0	28.0	34.7	14.5	19.6	3.2
13 Uttar Pradesh	1971	100.0	29.4	35.5	17.7	15.0	2.4
	1981	100.0	31.7	27.7	17.3	18.3	5.0
14 West Bengal	1971	100.0	26.7	33.5	20.0	15.8	4.0
	1981	100.0	25.3	35.9	16.0	17.3	5.5

*Excludes Assam.

Statement 20 : Per cent distribution of literates by highest educational level completed for major states, females, 1971-1981

India/state	Year	Highest educational level completed					
		Total literates	Less than primary	Primary	Middle	Matriculation or higher secondary	Graduate and above
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
INDIA*	1971	100.0	36.6	38.2	15.6	8.2	1.4
	1981	100.0	33.4	34.0	16.8	12.8	3.0
1 Andhra Pradesh	1971	100.0	33.0	46.5	13.6	6.2	0.7
	1981	100.0	23.4	44.9	18.5	11.4	1.8
2 Bihar	1971	100.0	47.4	24.1	22.3	5.2	1.0
	1981	100.0	42.1	22.8	22.5	10.8	1.8
3 Gujarat	1971	100.0	55.6	27.6	7.2	8.5	1.1
	1981	100.0	46.5	28.3	8.1	14.4	2.7
4 Haryana	1971	100.0	34.0	37.3	17.7	9.1	1.9
	1981	100.0	36.3	31.7	13.2	14.8	4.0
5 Karnataka	1971	100.0	21.9	47.7	19.2	10.3	0.9
	1981	100.0	29.7	32.8	20.9	14.3	2.3
6 Kerala	1971	100.0	32.1	42.9	16.5	7.8	0.7
	1981	100.0	29.2	32.9	24.3	12.0	1.6
7 Madhya Pradesh	1971	100.0	49.1	30.2	10.7	8.2	1.8
	1981	100.0	45.6	28.7	12.2	9.8	3.7
8 Maharashtra	1971	100.0	35.5	35.6	19.7	7.8	1.4
	1981	100.0	31.7	31.0	20.7	13.4	3.2
9 Orissa	1971	100.0	20.1	63.5	13.5	2.4	0.5
	1981	100.0	19.8	55.6	15.5	8.0	1.1
10 Punjab	1971	100.0	32.8	41.4	12.4	11.8	1.6
	1981	100.0	28.1	35.9	14.7	17.4	3.9
11 Rajasthan	1971	100.0	48.8	29.4	11.4	8.7	1.7
	1981	100.0	39.6	30.4	14.3	11.6	4.1
12 Tamil Nadu	1971	100.0	40.4	35.9	15.4	7.7	0.6
	1981	100.0	32.9	36.1	14.4	14.9	1.7
13 Uttar Pradesh	1971	100.0	36.2	40.7	12.1	9.1	1.9
	1981	100.0	37.6	32.9	12.7	12.4	4.4
14 West Bengal	1971	100.0	32.2	38.6	17.7	9.3	2.2
	1981	100.0	29.6	41.0	14.5	11.4	3.5

*Excludes Assam.

mass education system need not have a high proportion of students going on to graduate-level education. Conversely, a system where only a small proportion attend school, mainly from well-to-do families, may have a high proportion of students going on to graduate-level education.

It is also interesting that several states showed an increase in the proportion of literates with less than primary education. These states included Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Orissa. This could occur if enrollment ratios at the beginning primary level increased substantially during the five years or so before the 1981 Census, by which time the new enrolees would not yet have had enough time to complete primary school. However, it is not certain that this is the reason for the observed pattern.

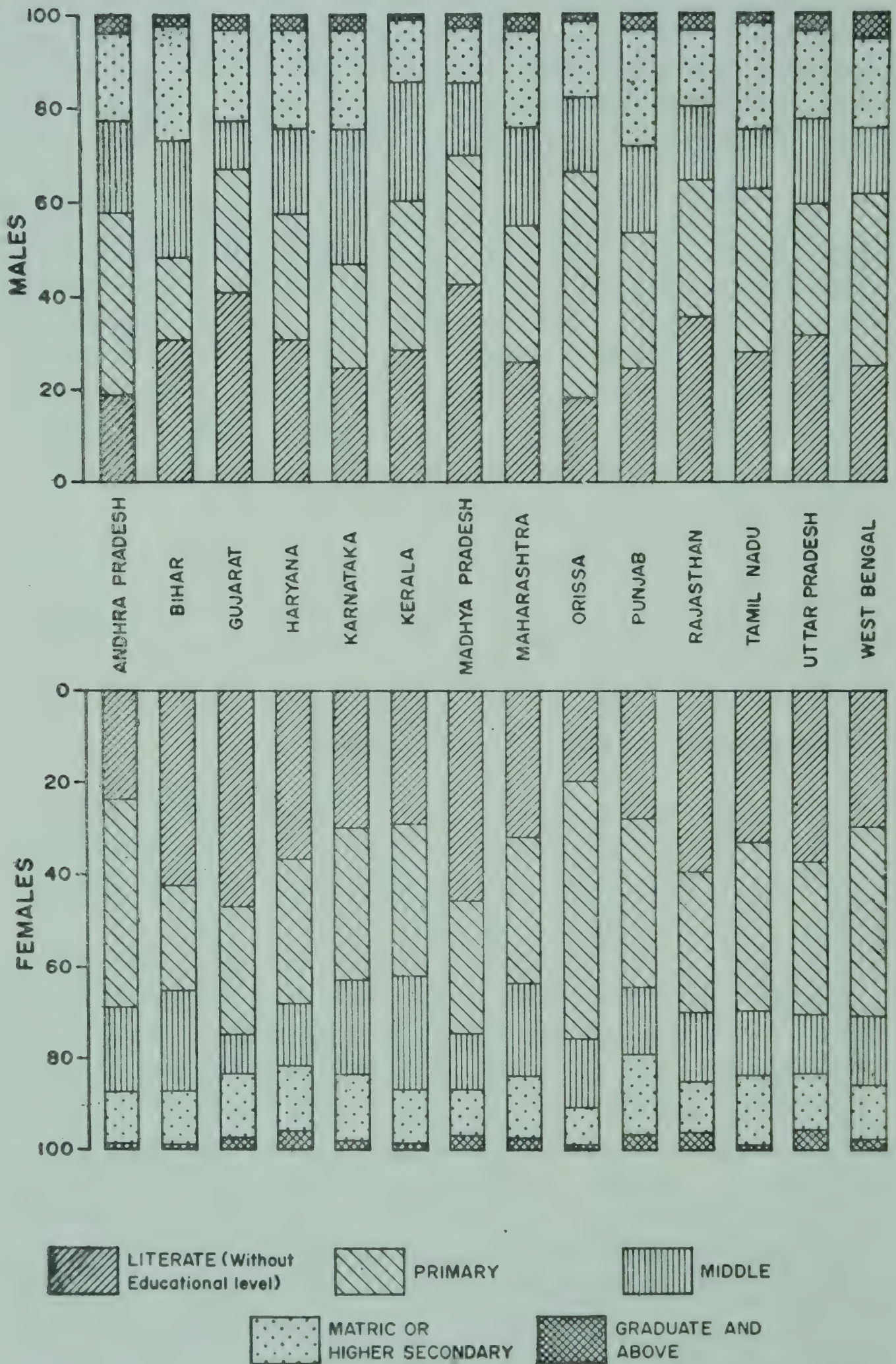
A comparison of Statements 19 and 20, which are graphed in Graph 4, indicates that the quality of literacy, as measured by proportions with higher levels of education, was uniformly higher for males than females in all the major states.

Developmental correlates of female literacy

It is frequently said that literacy is a basic concomitant of development. To the extent that this is true, literacy rates should correlate highly with other developmental indices. Here we examine how female literacy rates for women aged 15 and over, derived from the 1981 Census, correlate with other socio-economic and demographic indices for the major states. The other indices considered are per cent urban, female work participation rate, per cent of female main workers who are non-agricultural or non-household industry workers (main workers are those who worked at least 163 days a year), per cent of females belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, infant mortality rate, sex ratio (females/males), mean age at marriage, per cent married among females aged 15-44, contraceptive use rate, crude birth rate and total fertility rate. The statistical relationships between literacy rate and each of these other variables are portrayed in Statement 21 and Graph 5. Two rows of correlation coefficients are given in Statement 21.

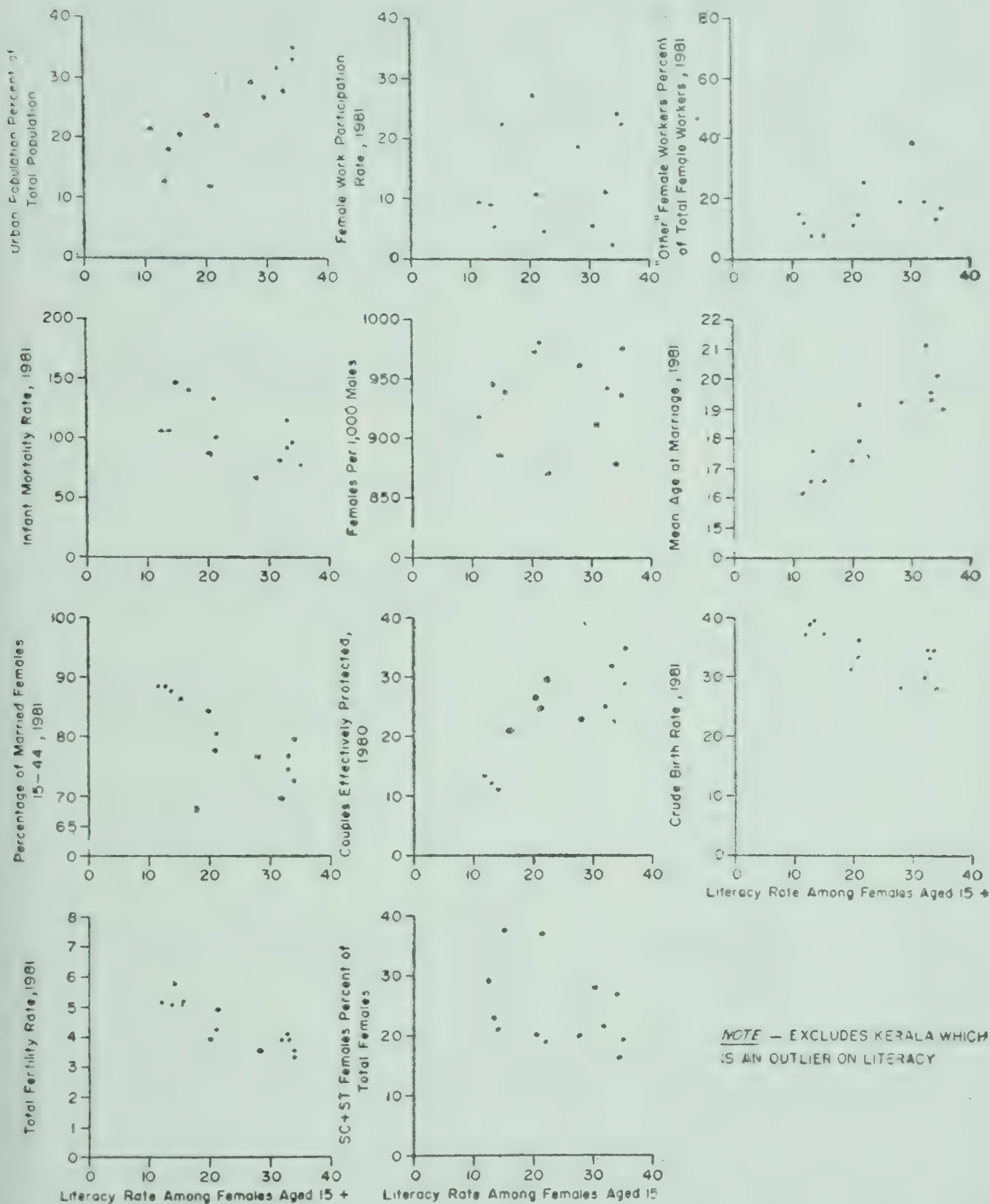
GRAPH 4

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATES BY EDUCATIONAL LEVELS 1981



GRAPH 5

SCATTER PLOTS OF SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES
BY LITERACY RATES AMONG FEMALES AGED 15 AND OVER, MAJOR STATES, 1981



Statement 21: Literacy rate among females aged 15+ in 1981 and selected associated variables for major states

India/State	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Literacy rate among females aged 15+ 1981	Per cent urban 1981	Work rate ¹ 1981	Per cent females employ- ed ² 1981	Per cent ST and SC ³ 1981	Infant mortal- ity rate 1981	Sex ratio (fe- males/ males) 1981	Mean age at marriage 1981	Per cent married females ⁴ 1981	Contra- ceptive use ⁵ rate 1980	Crude birth rate 1981	Total fertility rate 1981
INDIA*		25.7	23.7	14.0	16.0	23.7	110	934	18.7	80.5	22.3	33.9	4.5
1 Andhra Pradesh		20.0	23.3	27.0	12.0	20.7	86	975	17.6	84.1	26.7	31.7	4.0
2 Bihar		13.2	12.5	9.1	8.4	23.2	118	946	17.1	88.6	12.3	39.1	5.7
3 Gujarat		33.2	31.1	11.0	19.4	21.6	116	942	19.6	76.3	32.8	34.5	4.3
4 Haryana		21.6	21.9	4.7	26.3	19.0	101	870	18.2	80.6	30.3	36.5	5.0
5 Karnataka		28.2	28.9	19.0	19.0	20.0	69	963	19.4	76.1	22.9	28.3	3.6
6 Kerala		70.8	18.7	12.8	43.9	11.0	37	1,032	21.9	60.6	29.4	25.6	2.8
7 Madhya Pd.		15.9	20.3	22.3	8.2	37.7	142	941	17.2	87.1	21.1	37.6	5.2
8 Maharashtra		34.6	35.0	24.0	13.5	16.6	79	937	18.9	79.8	35.2	28.5	3.6
9 Orissa		21.2	11.8	10.7	15.6	37.5	135	981	19.1	77.4	24.8	33.1	4.3
10 Punjab		32.4	27.7	2.3	64.0	26.7	81	879	21.1	69.4	25.0	30.3	4.0
11 Rajasthan		12.0	21.0	9.3	14.8	29.4	108	919	17.0	88.5	15.3	37.1	5.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
12	Tamil Nadu	34.7	33.0	22.4	17.5	19.4	91	977	20.2	72.7	28.6	28.9	3.4
13	Uttar Pradesh	13.9	17.9	5.4	11.7	21.4	150	885	18.3	88.4	11.6	39.6	5.8
14	West Bengal	33.3	26.5	5.8	38.4	28.0	91	911	19.4	74.7	22.0	33.2	4.2
	r_1		0.30	0.06	0.59	-0.58	-0.78	0.53	0.87	-0.91	0.59	-0.79	-0.83
	r_2		0.83	0.13	0.51	-0.39	-0.64	0.09	0.84	-0.89	0.76	-0.80	-0.84

- 1 Female main workers per cent of female population.
- 2 Non-agricultural and non-household industry female workers per cent of total female main workers.
- 3 Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste females per cent of total females.
- 4 Currently married females per cent of total females aged 15-44.
- 5 Percentage of couples, in reproductive age group 15-44, effectively protected against conception.

*Excludes Assam.

r_1 is the coefficient of correlation between the specified column variable and the literacy rate among females aged 15+ in column 2, including Kerala.

r_2 is the coefficient of correlation between the specified column variable and the literacy rate among females aged 15+ in column 2, excluding Kerala.

The second row excludes Kerala, which is an outlier on literacy and therefore has an unduly large effect on the correlation coefficient.

The female literacy rate is strongly and positively related with mean age at marriage, and with per cent urban and per cent using contraception when Kerala is excluded. (Kerala has a high literacy rate despite a comparatively low percentage urban and a contraceptive use rate that is somewhat low considering its high literacy rate.) The female literacy rate is moderately and positively related with per cent in non-agricultural and non-household industry employment among total female workers, and contraceptive use rate. The positive relationship between female literacy rate and sex ratio is moderately strong when Kerala is included but virtually disappears when Kerala is excluded (Kerala has the highest sex ratio in the country). Female literacy rate is strongly and negatively related with infant mortality rate, per cent married among females aged 15-44, crude birth rate, and total fertility rate. It is moderately and negatively correlated with per cent of females belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Female literacy rate is weakly and positively related with per cent urban and female work participation rate. General work participation requires less literacy than non-agricultural and non-household industry work participation, which explains why literacy rate is related more strongly to the former than to the latter. All of the relationships are in the expected direction.

Of course, the correlations in Statement 21 do not by themselves say much about causality. However, many other studies based on causal modeling indicate that literacy does have causal effects on many of the variables considered here. This is particularly true of the mortality and fertility-related variables. The strongly negative relationship between female

literacy rate and fertility that is observed for the major states suggests that the steady improvements in female literacy in India are contributing substantially to both mortality and fertility decline. The findings also indicate that progress in raising literacy enhances the progress of the family welfare programme in India.

PROJECTIONS OF LITERACY RATES

Given that the goal of current education policy is 100 per cent literacy, except for very young children, it is of interest to estimate how long the achievement of that goal would take, given current trends. This is done here for all-India, states and union territories, by sex and urban-rural residence.

The method used to project literacy rates is crude, but it is sufficient to give a rough idea of how long it would take to achieve full literacy. First, we view children aged 5 and below as illiterate, and we note that the population above age 5 constitutes about 85 per cent of the total population. Therefore, for the purpose of projection, a literacy rate of 85 per cent is defined as full literacy. The projections are based on the trend in literacy rate observed between 1971 and 1981 and it is assumed that during each future decade the literacy rate will increase by an amount equal to the amount by which it increased between 1971 and 1981. Thus, with L_1 and L_2 denoting the literacy rate in 1971 and 1981, respectively, the number of decades to achieve full literacy is calculated as $(85-L_2/L_2-L_1)$.

Statement 22 shows the results of this rough calculation. India as a whole would take somewhat more than 7 decades to reach full literacy. Males would take somewhat more than 5 decades and females somewhat less than 10 decades. Urban areas would take about 5.5 decades, and rural areas somewhat more than 9 decades.

The states and UTs show wide variability in projected time until full literacy. For persons of both sexes considered

Statement 22 : Decades required to attain a literacy rate of 85 per cent, projected from rates of change in literacy rates between 1971 and 1981 for states and union territories

India/state/ union territory	Persons	Males	Females	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6
INDIA*	7.2	5.2	9.8	9.3	5.5
<i>States</i>					
1 Andhra Pradesh	10.3	7.5	13.9	15.2	6.7
2 Bihar	9.4	6.3	14.6	11.7	4.5
3 Gujarat	5.2	3.7	7.0	6.2	4.6
4 Haryana	5.3	3.4	8.5	6.3	4.8
5 Himachal Pradesh	4.0	3.2	4.8	4.2	2.5
6 Jammu & Kashmir	7.2	5.1	10.5	8.4	5.3
7 Karnataka	6.7	5.0	8.5	9.1	5.4
8 Kerala	1.5	1.1	1.7	1.6	0.9
9 Madhya Pradesh	10.0	6.7	15.1	14.4	6.9
10 Maharashtra	4.7	3.4	6.0	6.2	3.6
11 Manipur	5.2	4.4	5.9	6.3	**
12 Meghalaya	11.1	12.5	9.9	14.2	**
13 Nagaland	2.8	2.3	3.4	3.1	6.0
14 Orissa	6.3	4.3	8.9	7.2	5.2
15 Punjab	6.1	5.6	6.6	6.7	9.4
16 Rajasthan	11.4	6.4	24.5	16.2	7.5
17 Sikkim	3.1	2.2	4.7	3.6	3.5
18 Tamil Nadu	5.2	4.1	6.2	7.2	3.0
19 Tripura	3.8	2.9	4.9	4.2	1.2
20 Uttar Pradesh	10.6	6.4	20.3	12.6	17.4
21 West Bengal	5.7	4.4	7.0	7.0	3.3
<i>Union territories</i>					
1 A & N Islands	4.2	3.7	3.9	4.6	4.9
2 Arunachal Pradesh	6.8	5.0	9.7	7.6	11.5
3 Chandigarh	6.3	7.9	5.2	2.8	14.0
4 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5.0	3.4	7.6	ER	ER
5 Delhi	4.8	3.5	6.0	3.3	6.1
6 Goa, Daman & Diu	2.4	1.7	3.0	2.7	2.3
7 Lakshadweep	2.6	2.3	2.9	ER	ER
8 Mizoram	4.1	5.2	3.7	7.7	7.2
9 Pondicherry	3.0	2.2	3.5	3.9	3.2

*Excludes Assam.

**Literacy rate declined between 1971 and 1981 because of classification of substantial rural areas as urban.

ER Entirely rural in 1971.

Note : The 14 most populous states are indicated in boldface.

together, Kerala would attain this goal in 1.5 decades. At the other extreme, Rajasthan would take more than 11 decades. States and UTs that would take 3 decades or less are Kerala, Goa, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Nagaland and Pondicherry. States and UTs that would take more than 9 decades include Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Rajasthan. This latter group includes many of the larger states and accounts for almost half of the country's population (excluding Assam). The projected times until full literacy for both sexes together for states and UTs are also shown in Map 2.

In some of the states and UTs, females are projected to attain full literacy sooner than males. In these states and UTs, which include Mizoram, Chandigarh and Meghalaya, the female literacy rate started below the male literacy rate but eventually surpassed it, a projected scenario that may not come to pass. The reason why it occurs in the projection is that female literacy rates increased more than male literacy rates between 1971 and 1981 in these states and UTs. But in most cases it is probably unrealistic to assume that a given sex difference in literacy rates will persist indefinitely into the future. Therefore, the sex differences in time required to reach full literacy should be viewed as even cruder than the projections for persons of both sexes in column 2 of Statement 22.

A similar caveat applies to the urban-rural difference in time required to reach full literacy. In most states and UTs urban areas are projected to reach full literacy sooner than rural areas, but Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Manipur, Punjab, Chandigarh, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, were exceptions. Again these projected exceptions may not come to pass. As seen earlier in Statement 14, urban areas had higher literacy rates than rural areas in every state and UT in 1981 at the start of the projection.

We have also done a projection of literacy in the prime school-going ages 5-14. The projection was done in the same way as before, but with 100 per cent literacy as the goal. Thus projected decades to full literacy are calculated as $(100-L_2/L_2-L_1)$, where L_1 and L_2 now pertain to the literacy rate for the

MAP 2

DECADES PROJECTED TO ATTAIN A LITERACY RATE OF 85 PER CENT STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES



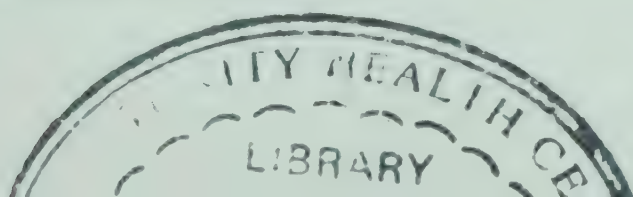
age group 5-14 instead of the entire population. Results from this projection for India and major states are presented in Statement 23.

At the level of all-India, the results of this projection do not differ much from those of the previous projection. The 100 per cent projection based on population aged 5-14 would require 7.5 decades for full literacy, and the 85 per cent projection based on total population would require 7.2 decades for full literacy. The ranking of states is also rather similar in the two projections. In both projections Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Punjab would reach full literacy before the other states, and Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh behind the other states. Intermediate rankings show some differences between the two projections, however.

Statement 23 : Decades required to achieve a literacy rate of 85 per cent in the total population or 100 per cent among those aged 5-14, projected from rates of change in literacy rates between 1971 and 1981 for major states

India/state	85 per cent projection based on total population			100 per cent projection based on population aged 5-14		
	P	M	F	P	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INDIA*	7.2	5.2	9.8	7.5	6.2	9.0
1 Andhra Pradesh	10.3	7.5	13.9	6.8	5.2	9.1
2 Bihar	9.4	6.3	14.6	7.5	5.9	9.5
3 Gujarat	5.2	3.7	7.0	3.9	3.4	4.4
4 Haryana	5.3	3.4	8.5	4.9	3.9	6.0
5 Karnataka	6.7	5.0	8.5	7.2	6.6	7.8
6 Kerala	1.5	1.1	1.7	1.9	2.1	1.8
7 Madhya Pradesh	10.0	6.7	15.1	10.7	8.4	13.6
8 Maharashtra	4.7	3.4	6.0	4.0	3.6	4.3
9 Orissa	6.3	4.3	8.9	6.6	5.3	7.8
10 Punjab	6.1	5.6	6.6	4.0	3.8	4.1
11 Rajasthan	11.4	6.4	24.9	14.4	8.9	25.1
12 Tamil Nadu	5.2	4.1	6.2	5.9	6.1	5.8
13 Uttar Pradesh	10.6	6.4	20.3	11.7	8.3	17.6
14 West Bengal	5.7	4.4	7.0	9.1	9.0	9.0

*Excludes Assam.



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Despite the similarities, considerable variability among states remains. For example, for persons of both sexes, the 85 per cent projection for total population is longer than the 100 per cent projection for population aged 5-14 in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra and Punjab. The direction of inequality is reversed in the other states. The pattern of reversals is rather similar for each sex considered separately. But again because of the crudity of the projection method, the projected pattern of reversals may not prove very predictive.

It is sobering to reflect that projection of 1971-81 trends indicates that full literacy for India is at least 7 decades in the future. However, this is a projection, not a certainty. If the Government is successful in its current efforts to accelerate progress in the area of education, the goal of full literacy could be attained sooner than projected.

CONCLUSION

The main features of recent trends in literacy in India can be summarized briefly:

Between 1901 and 1981, India's literacy rate increased from 5 per cent to 36 per cent. Due to concomitant large increases in population size, the number of literates increased by a factor of about 20, much faster than the literacy rate itself, and the number of illiterates increased by a factor of about 2. By 1981 the female literacy rate, at 25 per cent, was slightly more than half of the male literacy rate, at 47 per cent. The rural literacy rate, at 30 per cent, was slightly more than half of the urban literacy rate, at 57 per cent. The picture on literacy is brighter in the school-going ages, especially at ages 10-14 where the literacy rate reaches its peak in cross-sectional data. In 1981 the literacy rate in this age group was 57 per cent.

There is a great deal of variation in literacy rates among the states and union territories. In 1981, Kerala had the highest literacy rate, at 70 per cent, and Arunachal Pradesh had the lowest, at 21 per cent. States and union territories with literacy rates higher than 55 per cent, included Kerala, Chandigarh, Delhi, Mizoram, Goa, Daman & Diu, Pondicherry and Lakshadweep. States and union territories with literacy rates lower than 30 per cent included Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh.

The quality of literacy has tended to improve over time, in terms of composition by educational attainment. The proportion of literates with higher levels of education has tended to increase.

At the state and UT level of analysis, literacy rates tend to be highly correlated with other development indicators. The female literacy rate at ages 15 and over is moderately to strongly correlated with per cent of female workers in modern occupations, age at marriage, and contraceptive use. It is strongly and negatively correlated with infant mortality and fertility. Thus the correlations suggest that improvements in literacy contribute substantially to development.

Projections of trends in literacy rates between 1971 and 1981 indicate that, for all-India, it will take another 7 decades or so for the goal of complete literacy to be achieved if current trends continue. Again there is wide variability among the states, with Kerala requiring 1.5 decades and Rajasthan requiring more than a century. However, the goal of full literacy could be achieved sooner if current efforts to accelerate the pace of educational improvement through the National Policy on Education, 1986, are successful.

Tables

Table 1. Population and Literates by residence and sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

Census year	Total Rural Urban	Population			Literates		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
INDIA*							
1961	Total	428,397,442	220,494,825	207,902,617	102,601,889	75,783,560	26,818,329
	Rural	350,242,127	178,175,956	172,066,171	65,966,901	51,480,843	14,486,058
	Urban	78,155,315	42,318,869	35,836,446	36,634,988	24,302,717	12,332,271
1971	Total	533,534,500	276,335,036	257,199,464	157,298,239	109,214,182	48,084,057
	Rural	425,709,745	218,344,812	207,364,933	100,831,910	73,702,725	27,129,185
	Urban	107,824,755	57,990,224	49,834,531	56,466,329	35,511,457	20,954,872
1981	Total	665,287,849	343,930,423	321,357,426	241,031,849	161,285,568	79,746,281
	Rural	507,607,678	260,054,020	247,553,658	150,516,864	106,066,214	44,450,650
	Urban	157,680,171	83,876,403	73,803,768	90,514,985	55,219,354	35,295,631

*Excludes Assam where the 1981 Census could not be held due to disturbed conditions in that state at the time of the 1981 Census operation.

Table 1. Population and Literates by residence and sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

Census year	Total Rural Urban	Population			Literates		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
States							
1. Andhra Pradesh							
1961	Total	35,983,447	18,161,671	17,821,776	7,626,527	5,482,333	2,144,194
	Rural	29,708,939	14,945,712	14,763,227	5,004,800	3,757,794	1,247,006
	Urban	6,274,508	3,215,959	3,058,549	2,621,727	1,724,539	897,188
1971	Total	43,502,708	22,008,663	21,494,045	10,689,665	7,303,297	3,386,368
	Rural	35,100,181	17,698,247	17,401,934	6,733,998	4,833,560	1,900,438
	Urban	8,402,527	4,310,416	4,092,111	3,955,667	2,469,737	1,485,930
1981	Total	53,549,673	27,108,922	26,440,751	16,034,818	10,642,377	5,392,441
	Rural	41,062,097	20,697,627	20,364,470	9,542,250	6,674,454	2,867,796
	Urban	12,487,576	6,411,295	6,076,281	6,492,568	3,967,923	2,524,645

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	2. Bihar						
1961	Total	46,455,610	23,301,449	23,154,161	8,547,845	6,950,967	1,596,878
	Rural	42,541,690	21,140,292	21,401,398	6,857,508	5,750,692	1,106,816
	Urban	3,913,920	2,161,157	1,752,763	1,690,337	1,200,275	490,062
1971	Total	56,353,369	28,846,944	27,506,425	11,237,613	8,839,395	2,398,218
	Rural	50,719,403	25,728,987	24,990,416	8,707,072	7,111,190	1,595,882
	Urban	5,633,966	3,117,957	2,516,009	2,530,541	1,728,205	802,336
1981	Total	69,914,734	35,930,560	33,984,174	18,321,004	13,691,472	4,629,532
	Rural	61,195,744	31,170,556	30,025,188	13,771,145	10,717,863	3,053,282
	Urban	8,718,990	4,760,004	3,958,986	4,549,859	2,973,609	1,576,250
	3. Gujarat						
1961	Total	20,633,350	10,633,902	9,999,448	6,283,256	4,373,373	1,909,883
	Rural	15,316,726	7,830,222	7,486,504	3,690,087	2,702,250	987,837
	Urban	5,316,624	2,803,680	2,512,944	2,593,169	1,671,123	922,046
1971	Total	26,697,475	13,802,494	12,894,981	9,555,289	6,363,767	3,191,522
	Rural	19,200,975	9,842,483	9,358,492	5,439,395	3,831,076	1,608,319
	Urban	7,496,500	3,960,011	3,536,489	4,115,894	2,532,691	1,583,203
1981	Total	34,085,799	17,552,640	16,533,159	14,895,844	9,555,269	5,340,575
	Rural	23,484,146	11,986,672	11,497,474	8,501,786	5,735,918	2,765,868
	Urban	10,601,653	5,565,968	5,035,685	6,394,058	3,819,351	2,574,707

Table 1. Population and Literates by residence and sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

Census year	Total Rural Urban	Population		Literates			
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			4. Haryana				
1961	Total	7,590,543	4,062,797	3,527,746	1,512,510	1,187,503	325,007
	Rural	6,282,863	3,352,732	2,930,131	927,473	795,194	132,279
	Urban	1,307,680	710,065	597,615	585,037	392,309	192,728
1971	Total	10,036,808	5,377,258	4,659,550	2,699,179	2,005,424	693,755
	Rural	8,263,849	4,420,225	3,843,624	1,794,925	1,439,614	355,311
	Urban	1,772,959	957,033	815,926	904,254	565,810	338,444
1981	Total	12,922,618	6,909,938	6,012,680	4,669,898	3,330,658	1,339,240
	Rural	10,095,231	5,380,966	4,714,265	3,062,155	2,337,657	724,498
	Urban	2,827,387	1,528,972	1,298,415	1,607,743	993,001	614,742

5. Himachal Pradesh

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1961		Total	2,812,463	1,451,334	1,361,129	598,010	468,888	129,122
		Rural	2,634,188	1,343,271	1,290,917	493,264	395,999	97,265
		Urban	178,275	108,063	70,212	104,746	72,889	31,857
1971		Total	3,460,434	1,766,957	1,693,477	1,105,825	763,192	342,633
		Rural	3,218,544	1,628,623	1,589,921	959,375	670,836	288,539
		Urban	241,890	138,334	103,556	146,450	92,356	54,094
1981		Total	4,280,818	2,169,931	2,110,887	1,818,287	1,154,281	664,006
		Rural	3,954,847	1,988,331	1,966,516	1,598,447	1,021,125	577,322
		Urban	325,971	181,600	144,371	219,840	133,156	86,684

6. Jammu & Kashmir

1961		Total	3,560,976	1,896,633	1,664,343	392,761	321,827	70,934
		Rural	2,967,661	1,574,946	1,392,715	225,122	203,475	21,647
		Urban	593,315	321,687	271,628	167,639	118,352	49,287
1971		Total	4,616,632	2,458,315	2,158,317	857,964	657,660	200,304
		Rural	3,758,411	1,996,864	1,761,547	530,354	442,635	87,719
		Urban	858,221	461,451	396,770	327,610	215,025	112,585
1981		Total	5,987,389	3,164,660	2,822,729	1,596,776	1,148,569	448,207
		Rural	4,726,986	2,492,413	2,234,573	1,022,483	788,581	233,902
		Urban	1,260,403	672,247	588,156	574,293	359,988	214,305

Table 1. Population and Literates by residence and sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

Census year	Total Rural Urban	Population			Persons			Literates	
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
7. Karnataka									
1961	Total	23,586,772	12,040,923	11,545,849	5,990,585	4,352,428	1,638,157		
	Rural	18,320,279	9,287,660	9,032,619	3,661,784	2,832,056	829,728		
	Urban	5,266,493	2,753,263	2,513,230	2,328,801	1,520,372	808,429		
1971	Total	29,299,014	14,971,900	14,327,114	9,235,127	6,231,363	3,003,764		
	Rural	22,176,921	11,249,209	10,927,712	5,572,190	3,982,775	1,589,415		
	Urban	7,122,093	3,722,691	3,399,402	3,662,937	2,248,588	1,414,349		
1981	Total	37,135,714	18,922,627	18,213,087	14,282,717	9,236,276	5,046,441		
	Rural	26,406,108	13,352,400	13,053,708	8,197,913	5,616,633	2,581,280		
	Urban	10,729,606	5,570,227	5,159,379	6,084,804	3,619,643	2,465,161		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8. Kerala							
1961	Total	16,903,715	8,361,927	8,415,788	7,919,220	4,596,265	3,322,955
	Rural	14,349,574	7,079,168	7,270,406	6,516,066	3,790,850	2,725,216
	Urban	2,554,141	1,282,759	1,271,382	1,403,154	805,415	597,739
1971	Total	21,347,375	10,587,851	10,759,524	12,898,072	7,054,096	5,843,976
	Rural	17,880,926	8,852,350	9,028,576	10,599,409	5,804,787	4,794,622
	Urban	3,466,449	1,735,501	1,730,948	2,298,663	1,249,309	1,049,354
1981	Total	25,453,680	12,527,767	12,925,913	17,924,732	9,428,092	8,496,640
	Rural	20,682,405	10,167,417	10,514,988	14,293,417	7,537,432	6,755,985
	Urban	4,771,275	2,360,350	2,410,925	3,631,315	1,890,660	1,740,655
9. Madhya Pradesh							
1961	Total	32,372,408	16,578,204	15,794,204	5,544,862	4,481,454	1,063,408
	Rural	27,745,174	14,085,038	13,660,136	3,530,896	3,072,561	458,335
	Urban	4,627,234	2,493,166	2,134,068	2,013,966	1,408,893	605,073
1971	Total	41,654,119	21,455,334	20,198,785	9,223,081	7,016,649	2,206,432
	Rural	34,869,352	17,823,411	17,045,941	5,861,415	4,820,809	1,040,605
	Urban	6,784,767	3,631,923	3,152,844	3,361,666	2,195,840	1,165,826
1981	Total	52,178,844	26,886,305	25,292,539	14,544,568	10,617,302	3,927,266
	Rural	41,592,385	21,266,321	20,326,064	8,825,956	6,997,707	1,828,249
	Urban	10,586,459	5,619,984	4,966,475	5,718,612	3,619,595	2,099,017

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			11. Manipur				
1961	Total	780,037	387,058	392,979	237,276	174,656	62,620
	Rural	712,320	352,937	359,383	202,898	150,652	52,246
	Urban	67,717	34,121	33,596	34,378	24,004	10,374
1971	Total	1,072,753	541,675	531,078	353,090	249,383	103,707
	Rural	931,261	470,231	461,030	277,756	202,371	75,385
	Urban	141,492	71,444	70,048	75,334	47,012	28,322
1981	Total	1,420,953	721,006	699,947	587,618	384,231	203,387
	Rural	1,045,493	530,331	515,162	390,724	261,621	129,103
	Urban	375,460	190,675	184,785	196,894	122,610	74,284
			12. Meghalaya				
1961	Total	769,380	397,288	372,092	207,097	128,389	78,708
	Rural	651,897	330,701	321,196	135,525	83,539	51,986
	Urban	117,483	66,587	50,896	71,572	44,850	26,722
1971	Total	1,011,699	520,967	490,732	298,312	177,772	120,540
	Rural	864,529	441,533	422,996	202,327	122,220	80,107
	Urban	147,170	79,434	67,736	95,985	55,552	40,433
1981	Total	1,335,819	683,710	652,109	455,191	259,024	196,167
	Rural	1,094,486	556,958	537,528	300,457	171,688	128,769
	Urban	241,333	126,752	114,581	154,734	87,336	67,398

Table 1. Population and Literates by residence and sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

Census year	Total Rural Urban	Population			Literates		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13. Nagaland							
1961	Total	369,200	191,027	178,173	66,117	45,917	20,200
	Rural	350,043	179,261	170,782	55,366	38,352	17,014
	Urban	19,157	11,766	7,391	10,751	7,565	3,186
1971	Total	516,449	276,084	240,365	141,518	96,681	44,837
	Rural	465,055	241,171	223,884	110,277	73,593	36,684
	Urban	51,394	34,913	16,481	31,241	23,088	8,153
1981	Total	774,930	415,910	359,020	329,878	208,195	121,683
	Rural	654,696	344,699	309,997	252,655	158,872	93,783
	Urban	120,234	71,211	49,023	77,223	49,323	27,900

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14. Orissa							
1961	Total	17,548,846	8,770,586	8,778,260	3,801,245	3,042,004	759,241
	Rural	16,439,196	8,156,598	8,282,598	3,311,255	2,688,695	622,560
	Urban	1,109,650	613,988	495,662	489,990	353,309	136,681
1971	Total	21,944,615	11,041,083	10,903,532	5,745,399	4,227,806	1,517,593
	Rural	20,099,220	10,041,023	10,058,197	4,841,184	3,628,327	1,212,857
	Urban	1,845,395	1,000,060	845,335	904,215	599,479	304,736
1981	Total	26,370,271	13,309,786	13,060,485	9,027,205	6,268,643	2,758,562
	Rural	23,259,984	11,636,404	11,623,580	7,323,619	5,178,845	2,144,774
	Urban	3,110,287	1,673,382	1,436,905	1,703,586	1,089,798	613,788
15. Punjab							
1961	Total	11,135,069	6,007,566	5,127,503	2,977,330	2,084,582	892,748
	Rural	8,567,763	4,594,988	3,972,775	1,749,704	1,292,273	457,431
	Urban	2,567,306	1,412,578	1,154,728	1,227,626	792,309	435,317
1971	Total	13,551,060	7,266,515	6,284,545	4,562,123	2,934,281	1,627,842
	Rural	10,334,881	5,533,475	4,801,406	2,873,903	1,919,586	954,317
	Urban	3,216,179	1,733,040	1,483,139	1,688,220	1,014,695	673,525
1981	Total	16,788,915	8,937,210	7,851,705	6,860,349	4,214,878	2,645,471
	Rural	12,141,158	6,444,464	5,696,694	4,274,826	2,700,923	1,573,903
	Urban	4,647,757	2,492,746	2,155,011	2,585,523	1,513,955	1,071,568

Table 1. Population and Literates by residence and sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

Census year	Total Rural Urban	Population			Literates		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16. Rajasthan							
1961	Total	20,155,602	10,564,082	9,591,520	3,065,568	2,504,983	560,585
	Rural	16,874,124	8,820,880	8,053,244	1,831,418	1,617,713	213,705
	Urban	3,281,478	1,743,202	1,538,276	1,234,150	887,270	346,880
1971	Total	25,765,806	13,484,383	12,281,423	4,914,293	3,875,435	1,038,858
	Rural	21,222,045	11,060,995	10,161,050	2,939,205	2,529,846	409,359
	Urban	4,543,761	2,423,388	2,120,373	1,975,088	1,345,589	629,499
1981	Total	34,261,862	17,854,154	16,407,708	8,354,117	6,481,156	1,872,961
	Rural	27,051,354	14,013,454	13,037,900	4,867,581	4,155,512	712,069
	Urban	7,210,580	3,840,700	3,369,808	3,486,536	2,325,644	1,160,892

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			17. Sikkim				
1961	Total	162,189	85,193	76,996	19,999	16,721	3,278
	Rural	155,341	81,285	74,056	17,219	14,834	2,385
	Urban	6,848	3,908	2,940	2,780	1,887	893
1971	Total	209,843	112,662	97,181	37,230	28,579	8,651
	Rural	190,175	100,959	89,216	28,149	22,320	5,829
	Urban	19,668	11,703	7,965	9,081	6,259	2,822
1981	Total	316,385	172,440	143,945	07,738	75,779	31,959
	Rural	265,301	142,341	122,960	79,714	57,287	22,427
	Urban	51,084	30,099	20,985	28,024	18,492	9,532
			18. Tamil Nadu				
1961	Total	33,686,953	16,910,978	16,775,975	10,580,616	7,532,323	3,048,293
	Rural	24,696,425	12,331,586	12,364,839	6,093,499	4,662,846	1,430,653
	Urban	8,990,528	4,579,392	4,411,136	4,487,117	2,869,477	1,617,640
1971	Total	41,199,168	20,828,021	20,371,147	16,256,393	10,783,783	5,472,610
	Rural	28,734,334	14,438,727	14,295,607	9,231,587	6,518,218	2,713,369
	Urban	12,464,834	6,389,294	6,075,540	7,024,806	4,265,565	2,759,241
1981	Total	48,408,077	24,487,624	23,920,453	22,637,659	14,267,331	8,370,328
	Rural	32,456,202	16,334,231	16,121,971	12,516,223	8,356,454	4,159,769
	Urban	15,951,875	8,153,393	7,798,482	10,121,436	5,910,877	4,210,559

Table 1. Population and Literates by residence and sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

Census year	Total Rural Urban	Population			Literates		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19. Tripura							
1961	Total	1,142,005	591,237	550,768	231,188	175,060	56,128
	Rural	1,039,008	536,580	502,428	177,491	141,538	35,953
	Urban	102,990	54,657	48,340	53,697	33,522	20,175
1971	Total	1,556,342	801,126	755,216	482,082	322,017	160,065
	Rural	1,393,982	717,227	676,755	378,149	261,261	116,888
	Urban	162,360	83,899	78,461	103,933	60,756	43,177
1981	Total	2,053,058	1,054,846	998,212	864,799	545,401	319,398
	Rural	1,827,490	939,558	887,932	698,643	453,232	245,411
	Urban	225,568	115,288	110,280	166,156	92,169	73,987

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	20. Uttar Pradesh						
1961	Total	73,746,401	38,634,201	35,112,200	13,013,183	10,546,795	2,466,388
	Rural	64,266,506	33,401,345	30,865,161	9,215,971	7,932,045	1,283,926
	Urban	9,479,895	5,232,856	4,247,039	3,797,212	2,614,750	1,182,462
1971	Total	88,341,144	47,016,421	41,324,723	19,173,970	14,812,311	4,361,659
	Rural	75,952,548	40,214,012	35,738,536	13,769,262	11,269,375	2,499,887
	Urban	12,388,596	6,802,409	5,586,187	5,404,708	3,542,936	1,861,772
1981	Total	110,862,013	58,819,276	52,042,737	30,105,260	22,798,451	7,306,809
	Rural	90,962,898	48,041,135	42,921,763	20,974,798	16,899,940	4,074,858
	Urban	19,899,115	10,778,141	9,120,974	9,130,464	5,898,511	3,231,951
	21. West Bengal						
1961	Total	34,926,279	18,599,144	16,327,135	10,225,664	7,454,006	2,771,658
	Rural	26,385,437	13,579,044	12,806,393	5,708,513	4,462,329	1,246,184
	Urban	8,540,842	5,020,100	3,520,742	4,517,151	2,991,677	1,525,474
1971	Total	44,312,011	23,435,987	20,876,024	14,711,739	10,031,891	4,679,848
	Rural	33,344,978	17,173,552	16,171,426	8,577,954	6,148,637	2,429,317
	Urban	10,967,033	6,262,435	4,704,598	6,133,785	3,883,254	2,250,531
1981	Total	54,580,647	28,560,901	26,019,746	22,344,153	14,473,045	7,871,108
	Rural	40,133,926	20,617,489	19,516,437	13,291,177	8,985,376	4,305,801
	Urban	14,446,721	7,943,412	6,503,309	9,052,976	5,487,669	3,565,307

Table 1. Population and Literates by residence and sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

Census year	Total Rural Urban	Population			Literates		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Union Territories</i>							
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands							
1961	Total	63,548	39,304	24,244	21,372	16,675	4,697
	Rural	49,473	30,358	19,115	14,312	11,444	2,868
	Urban	14,075	8,946	5,129	7,060	5,231	1,829
1971	Total	115,133	70,027	45,106	50,191	36,160	14,031
	Rural	88,915	53,195	35,720	34,059	24,895	9,164
	Urban	26,218	16,832	9,386	16,132	11,265	4,867
1981	Total	188,741	107,261	81,480	97,321	62,983	34,338
	Rural	139,107	78,401	60,706	64,793	42,292	22,501
	Urban	49,634	28,860	20,774	32,528	20,691	11,837

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	2. Arunachal Pradesh						
1961	Total	336,558	177,680	158,878	24,013	21,757	2,256
	Rural	336,558	177,680	158,878	24,013	21,757	2,256
	Urban	Entirely rural					
1971	Total	467,511	251,231	216,280	52,791	44,776	8,015
	Rural	450,223	239,369	210,854	44,067	37,744	6,323
	Urban	17,288	11,862	5,426	8,724	7,032	1,692
1981	Total	631,839	339,322	292,517	131,333	98,211	33,122
	Rural	590,411	313,886	276,525	109,283	82,747	26,536
	Urban	41,428	25,436	15,992	22,050	15,464	6,586
	3. Chandigarh						
1961	Total	119,881	72,576	47,305	61,210	41,343	19,867
	Rural	20,619	12,023	8,596	4,195	3,448	747
	Urban	99,262	60,553	38,709	57,015	37,895	19,120
1971	Total	257,251	147,080	110,171	158,371	98,495	59,876
	Rural	24,311	14,444	9,867	7,422	5,610	1,812
	Urban	232,940	132,636	100,304	150,949	92,885	58,064
1981	Total	451,610	255,278	196,332	292,580	176,130	116,450
	Rural	28,769	17,046	11,723	12,868	8,913	3,955
	Urban	422,841	238,232	184,609	279,712	167,217	112,495

Table 1. Population and Literates by residence and sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

Census year	Total Rural Urban	Population			Literates		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4. Dadra & Nagar Haveli							
1961	Total	57,963	29,524	28,439	5,495	4,342	1,153
	Rural	57,963	29,524	28,439	5,495	4,342	1,153
	Urban	...	...	...	...	...	...
1971	Total	74,170	36,964	37,206	11,105	8,188	2,917
	Rural	74,170	36,964	37,206	11,105	8,188	2,917
	Urban	...	...	...	...	...	...
1981	Total	103,676	52,515	51,161	27,654	19,072	8,583
	Rural	96,762	48,846	47,916	23,910	16,764	7,146
	Urban	6,914	3,669	3,245	3,745	2,308	1,347

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	5. Delhi						
1961	Total	2,658,612	1,489,378	1,169,234	1,402,298	904,801	497,497
	Rural	299,204	161,992	137,212	75,186	62,292	12,894
	Urban	2,359,408	1,327,386	1,032,022	1,327,112	842,509	484,603
1971	Total	4,065,698	2,257,515	1,808,183	2,301,605	1,438,268	863,337
	Rural	418,675	229,424	189,251	151,690	112,413	39,277
	Urban	3,647,023	2,028,091	1,618,932	2,149,915	1,325,855	824,060
1981	Total	6,220,406	3,440,081	2,780,325	3,828,326	2,352,883	1,475,443
	Rural	452,206	249,833	202,373	215,091	150,165	64,926
	Urban	5,768,200	3,190,248	2,577,952	3,613,235	2,202,718	1,410,517
	6. Goa, Daman & Diu						
1961	Total	626,667	302,534	324,133	192,716	118,111	74,605
	Rural	526,003	252,440	273,563	144,737	89,897	54,840
	Urban	100,664	50,094	50,570	47,979	28,214	19,765
1971	Total	857,771	431,214	426,557	383,864	234,178	149,686
	Rural	630,997	310,909	320,088	256,135	156,710	99,425
	Urban	226,774	120,305	106,469	127,729	77,468	50,261
1981	Total	1,086,730	548,450	538,280	615,752	359,731	256,021
	Rural	734,922	365,102	369,820	387,127	227,793	159,334
	Urban	351,808	183,348	168,460	228,625	131,938	96,687

Table 1. Population and Literates by residence and sex for states and union territories, 1961-1981

Census year	Total Rural Urban	Population			Literates		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7. Lakshadweep							
1961	Total	24,108	11,935	12,173	5,610	4,273	1,337
	Rural	24,108	11,935	12,173	5,610	4,273	1,337
	Urban	Entirely rural					
1971	Total	31,810	16,078	15,732	13,889	9,081	4,808
	Rural	31,810	16,078	15,732	13,889	9,081	4,808
	Urban	Entirely rural					
1981	Total	40,249	20,377	19,872	22,165	13,293	8,872
	Rural	21,620	10,887	10,733	11,239	6,777	4,462
	Urban	18,629	9,490	9,139	10,926	6,516	4,410

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			8. Mizoram				
1961	Total	266,063	132,465	133,598	117,097	70,743	46,354
	Rural	251,806	124,835	126,971	107,679	65,288	42,391
	Urban	14,257	7,630	6,627	9,418	5,455	3,963
1971	Total	332,390	170,824	161,566	178,793	103,324	75,469
	Rural	294,631	151,322	143,309	151,405	88,201	63,204
	Urban	37,759	19,502	18,257	27,388	15,123	12,265
1981	Total	493,757	257,239	236,518	295,685	165,812	129,873
	Rural	371,943	192,874	179,069	205,469	116,083	89,386
	Urban	121,814	64,365	57,449	90,216	49,729	40,487
			9. Pondicherry				
1961	Total	369,079	183,347	185,732	138,149	982,34	45,765
	Rural	280,082	139,989	140,093	87,747	63,010	24,737
	Urban	88,997	43,358	45,639	50,402	29,374	21,028
1971	Total	471,707	237,112	234,595	217,058	135,851	81,207
	Rural	273,419	137,783	135,636	105,553	70,465	35,088
	Urban	198,288	99,329	98,959	111,505	65,386	46,119
1981	Total	604,471	304,561	299,910	337,615	200,520	137,095
	Rural	288,424	145,922	142,502	138,394	86,662	51,732
	Urban	316,047	158,639	157,408	199,221	113,858	85,363

Table 2 : Literacy rates by residence and sex and sex ratio among total population, literates and illiterates
for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	Census year	Strata	Literacy rate			Females per 1,000 males		
			Persons	Males	Females	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
INDIA*	1961	Total	23.95	34.37	12.90	943	354	1,251
		Rural	18.83	28.89	8.42	966	281	1,244
		Urban	46.87	57.43	34.41	847	507	1,305
	1971	Total	29.48	39.52	18.70	931	440	1,251
		Rural	23.69	33.76	13.08	950	368	1,246
		Urban	52.37	61.24	42.05	859	590	1,285
	1981	Total	36.23	46.89	24.82	934	494	1,323
		Rural	29.65	40.79	17.96	952	419	1,319
		Urban	57.40	65.83	47.82	880	639	1,344

*Excludes Assam.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
States								
1 Andhra Pradesh	1961	Total	21.19	30.19	12.03	981	391	1,236
		Rural	16.85	25.14	8.45	988	332	1,208
		Urban	41.78	53.62	29.33	951	520	1,449
	1971	Total	24.57	33.18	15.75	977	464	1,231
		Rural	19.19	27.31	10.92	983	393	1,205
		Urban	47.08	57.30	36.31	949	602	1,416
	1981	Total	29.94	39.26	20.39	975	507	1,278
		Rural	23.24	32.25	14.08	984	430	1,248
		Urban	51.99	61.89	41.55	948	636	1,454
2 Bihar	1961	Total	18.40	29.83	6.90	994	230	1,318
		Rural	16.12	27.20	5.17	1,012	192	1,319
		Urban	43.19	55.54	27.96	811	408	1,314
	1971	Total	19.94	30.64	8.72	954	271	1,255
		Rural	17.17	27.64	6.39	971	224	1,257
		Urban	44.92	55.43	31.89	807	464	1,233
	1981	Total	26.20	38.11	13.62	946	338	1,320
		Rural	22.50	34.38	10.17	963	285	1,319
		Urban	52.18	62.47	39.81	832	530	1,334

Table 2 : Literacy rates by residence and sex and sex ratio among total population, literates and illiterates
for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	Census year	Strata	Literacy rate			Females per 1,000 males		
			Persons	Males	Females	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3 Gujarat	1961	Total	30.45	41.13	19.10	940	437	1,292
		Rural	24.09	34.51	13.19	956	366	1,267
		Urban	48.77	59.60	36.69	896	552	1,405
	1971	Total	35.79	46.11	24.75	934	502	1,304
		Rural	28.33	38.92	17.19	951	420	1,289
		Urban	54.90	63.96	44.77	893	625	1,368
	1981	Total	43.70	54.44	32.30	942	559	1,400
		Rural	36.20	47.85	24.06	959	482	1,397
		Urban	60.31	68.62	51.13	905	674	1,409

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4 Haryana	1961	Total	19.93	29.23	9.21	868	274	1,114
		Rural	14.76	23.72	4.51	874	166	1,094
		Urban	44.74	55.25	32.25	842	491	1,274
	1971	Total	26.89	37.29	14.89	867	346	1,176
		Rural	21.72	32.57	9.24	870	247	1,199
		Urban	51.00	59.12	41.48	853	598	1,220
	1981	Total	36.14	48.20	22.27	870	402	1,306
		Rural	30.33	43.44	15.37	876	310	1,311
		Urban	56.86	64.95	47.35	849	619	1,276
5 Himachal Pradesh	1961	Total	21.26	32.31	9.49	938	275	1,254
		Rural	18.73	29.48	7.53	961	246	1,260
		Urban	58.76	67.45	45.37	650	437	1,090
	1971	Total	31.96	43.19	20.23	958	449	1,346
		Rural	29.81	41.19	18.15	976	430	1,359
		Urban	60.54	66.76	52.24	749	586	1,076
	1981	Total	42.48	53.19	31.46	973	575	1,425
		Rural	40.42	51.36	29.36	989	565	1,436
		Urban	67.44	73.32	60.04	795	651	1,191

Table 2 : Literacy rates by residence and sex and sex ratio among total population, literates and illiterates
for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	Census year	Strata	Literacy rate			Females per 1,000 males		
			Persons	Males	Females	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6 Jammu & Kashmir	1961	Total	11.03	16.97	4.26	878	220	1,012
		Rural	7.59	12.92	1.55	884	106	1,000
		Urban	28.25	36.79	18.15	844	416	1,093
	1971	Total	18.58	26.75	9.28	878	305	1,089
		Rural	14.11	22.17	4.98	882	198	1,077
		Urban	38.17	46.60	28.38	860	524	1,153
	1981	Total	26.67	36.29	15.88	892	390	1,178
		Rural	21.63	31.64	10.47	897	297	1,174
		Urban	45.56	53.55	36.44	875	595	1,197

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7 Karnataka	1961	Total	25.40	36.15	14.19	959	376	1,289
		Rural	19.99	30.49	9.19	973	293	1,271
		Urban	44.22	55.22	32.17	913	532	1,383
	1971	Total	31.52	41.62	20.97	957	482	1,295
		Rural	25.13	35.40	14.54	971	399	1,285
		Urban	51.43	60.40	41.61	913	629	1,347
	1981	Total	38.46	48.81	27.71	963	546	1,359
		Rural	31.05	42.06	19.77	978	460	1,354
		Urban	56.71	64.98	47.78	926	681	1,381
8 Kerala	1961	Total	46.85	54.97	38.90	1,022	723	1,386
		Rural	45.41	53.55	37.48	1,027	719	1,382
		Urban	54.94	62.79	47.01	991	742	1,411
	1971	Total	60.42	66.62	54.81	1,016	828	1,351
		Rural	59.28	65.57	53.10	1,020	826	1,389
		Urban	66.31	71.99	60.62	997	840	1,402
	1981	Total	70.42	75.26	65.73	1,032	901	1,429
		Rural	69.11	74.13	64.25	1,034	896	1,429
		Urban	76.11	80.10	72.20	1,021	921	1,427

Table 2 : Literacy rates by residence and sex and sex ratio among total population, literates and illiterates
for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	Census year	Strata	Literacy rate			Females per 1,000 males		
			Persons	Males	Females	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9 Madhya Pradesh	1961	Total	17.13	27.03	6.73	953	237	1,218
		Rural	12.73	21.81	3.36	970	149	1,199
		Urban	43.52	56.51	28.35	856	429	1,410
	1971	Total	22.14	32.70	10.92	941	314	1,246
		Rural	16.81	27.05	6.10	956	216	1,231
		Urban	49.55	60.46	36.98	868	531	1,384
	1981	Total	27.87	39.49	15.53	941	370	1,313
		Rural	21.22	32.91	8.99	956	261	1,296
		Urban	54.02	64.41	42.26	884	580	1,433

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Maharashtra	1961	Total	29.82	42.04	16.76	936	373	1,345
		Rural	21.46	33.51	9.34	995	277	1,357
		Urban	51.07	61.62	37.90	801	493	1,296
	1971	Total	39.18	51.04	26.43	930	482	1,398
		Rural	30.63	43.22	17.84	985	407	1,425
		Urban	58.07	66.88	47.33	820	580	1,304
	1981	Total	47.18	58.79	34.79	937	554	1,483
		Rural	38.15	51.25	24.88	987	479	1,521
		Urban	63.92	71.80	54.65	850	647	1,367
11 Manipur	1961	Total	30.42	45.12	15.93	1,015	359	1,555
		Rural	28.48	42.69	14.54	1,018	347	1,518
		Urban	50.77	70.35	30.88	985	432	2,295
	1971	Total	32.91	46.04	19.53	980	416	1,462
		Rural	29.83	43.04	16.35	980	373	1,440
		Urban	53.24	65.80	40.43	980	602	1,708
	1981	Total	41.35	53.29	29.06	971	529	1,474
		Rural	37.37	49.33	25.06	971	493	1,437
		Urban	52.44	64.30	40.20	969	606	1,623

Table 2 : Literacy rates by residence and sex and sex ratio among total population, literates and illiterates
for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/State Union territory	Census year	Strata	Literacy rate			Females per 1,000 males		
			Persons	Males	Females	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12 Meghalaya	1961	Total	26.92	32.32	21.15	937	613	1,091
		Rural	20.79	25.26	16.19	971	622	1,089
		Urban	60.92	67.36	52.50	764	596	1,112
	1971	Total	29.49	34.12	24.56	942	678	1,079
		Rural	23.40	27.68	18.94	958	655	1,074
		Urban	65.22	69.93	59.69	853	728	1,143
	1981	Total	34.08	37.89	30.08	954	757	1,074
		Rural	27.45	30.83	23.96	965	750	1,061
		Urban	64.12	68.90	58.82	904	772	1,197

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13 Nagaland	1961	Total	17.91	24.04	11.34	933	440	1,089
		Rural	15.82	21.39	9.96	953	444	1,091
		Urban	56.12	64.30	43.11	628	421	1,001
	1971	Total	27.40	35.02	18.65	871	464	1,090
		Rural	23.71	30.51	16.39	928	498	1,117
		Urban	60.79	66.13	49.47	472	353	704
	1981	Total	42.57	50.06	33.89	863	584	1,143
		Rural	38.59	46.09	30.25	899	590	1,164
		Urban	64.23	69.26	56.91	688	566	979
14 Orissa	1961	Total	21.66	34.68	8.65	1,001	250	1,400
		Rural	20.14	32.96	7.52	1,015	232	1,401
		Urban	44.16	57.54	27.58	807	387	1,377
	1971	Total	26.18	38.29	13.92	988	359	1,378
		Rural	24.09	36.14	12.06	1,002	334	1,379
		Urban	49.00	59.94	36.05	845	508	1,350
	1981	Total	34.23	47.10	21.12	981	440	1,463
		Rural	31.49	44.51	18.45	999	414	1,468
		Urban	54.77	65.13	42.72	859	563	1,410

Table 2 : Literacy rates by residence and sex and sex ratio among total population, literates and illiterates
for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state union territory	Census year	Strata	Literacy rate			Females per 1,000 males		
			Persons	Males	Females	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15 Punjab	1961	Total	26.74	34.70	17.41	854	428	1,079
		Rural	20.42	28.12	11.51	865	354	1,064
		Urban	47.82	56.09	37.70	817	549	1,160
	1971	Total	33.67	40.38	25.90	865	555	1,075
		Rural	27.81	34.69	19.88	868	497	1,065
		Urban	52.49	58.55	45.41	856	664	1,127
	1981	Total	40.86	47.16	33.69	879	628	1,102
		Rural	35.21	41.91	27.63	884	583	1,101
		Urban	55.63	60.73	49.72	865	708	1,107

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16 Rajasthan	1961	Total	15.21	23.71	5.84	908	224	1,121
		Rural	10.85	18.34	2.65	913	132	1,088
		Urban	37.61	50.90	22.55	882	391	1,392
	1971	Total	19.07	28.74	8.46	911	268	1,170
		Rural	13.85	22.87	4.03	919	162	1,143
		Urban	43.47	55.53	29.69	875	468	1,383
	1981	Total	24.38	36.30	11.42	919	289	1,278
		Rural	17.99	29.65	5.46	930	171	1,250
		Urban	48.35	60.55	34.45	877	499	1,458
17 Sikkim	1961	Total	12.33	19.63	4.26	904	196	1,135
		Rural	11.08	18.25	3.22	911	161	1,079
		Urban	40.60	48.29	30.37	752	473	1,013
	1971	Total	17.74	25.37	8.90	863	303	1,053
		Rural	14.80	22.11	6.53	884	261	1,060
		Urban	46.17	53.48	35.43	681	451	945
	1981	Total	34.05	43.95	22.20	835	422	1,159
		Rural	30.05	40.25	18.24	864	391	1,182
		Urban	54.86	61.44	45.42	697	515	987

Table 2 : Literacy rates by residence and sex and sex ratio among total population, literates and illiterates
for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/State/ Union territory	Census year	Strata	Literacy rate			Females per 1,000 males		
			Persons	Males	Females	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
18 Tamil Nadu	1961	Total	31.41	44.54	18.17	992	405	1,464
		Rural	24.67	37.81	11.57	1,003	307	1,426
		Urban	49.91	62.66	36.67	963	564	1,634
	1971	Total	39.46	51.78	26.86	978	507	1,483
		Rural	32.13	45.14	18.98	990	416	1,462
		Urban	56.36	66.76	45.42	951	647	1,562
	1981	Total	46.76	58.26	34.99	977	587	1,521
		Rural	38.56	51.16	25.80	987	498	1,499
		Urban	63.45	72.50	53.99	956	712	1,600

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19 Tripura	1961	Total	20.24	29.61	10.19	932	321	1,189
		Rural	17.08	26.38	7.16	936	254	1,181
		Urban	52.13	61.33	41.74	884	602	1,354
	1971	Total	30.98	40.20	21.19	943	497	1,242
		Rural	27.13	36.43	17.27	944	447	1,228
		Urban	64.01	72.42	55.03	935	711	1,525
	1981	Total	42.12	51.70	32.00	946	586	1,332
		Rural	38.23	48.24	27.64	945	541	1,321
		Urban	73.66	79.95	67.09	957	803	1,570
20 Uttar Pradesh	1961	Total	17.65	27.30	7.02	909	234	1,162
		Rural	14.34	23.75	4.16	924	162	1,161
		Urban	40.06	49.97	27.84	812	452	1,171
	1971	Total	21.70	31.50	10.55	879	294	1,148
		Rural	18.13	28.02	6.99	889	222	1,148
		Urban	43.63	52.08	33.33	821	525	1,143
	1981	Total	27.16	38.76	14.04	885	320	1,242
		Rural	23.06	35.18	9.49	893	241	1,247
		Urban	45.88	54.73	35.43	846	548	1,207

Table 2 : Literacy rates by residence and sex and sex ratio among total population, literates and illiterates
for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/State/ Union territory	Census year	Strata	Literacy rate			Females per 1,000 males		
			Persons	Males	Females	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
21 West Bengal	1961	Total	29.28	40.08	16.98	878	372	1,216
		Rural	21.64	32.86	9.73	943	279	1,268
		Urban	52.89	59.59	43.33	701	510	984
	1971	Total	33.20	42.81	22.42	891	466	1,208
		Rural	25.72	35.80	15.02	942	395	1,246
		Urban	55.93	62.01	47.84	751	580	1,031
	1981	Total	40.94	50.67	30.25	911	544	1,288
		Rural	33.12	43.58	22.06	947	479	1,308
		Urban	62.66	69.08	54.82	819	650	1,196

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Union territories</i>								
1 Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1961	Total	33.63	42.43	19.37	617	282	864
		Rural	28.93	37.70	15.00	630	251	859
		Urban	50.16	58.47	35.66	573	350	888
	1971	Total	43.59	51.64	31.11	644	388	918
		Rural	38.31	46.80	25.66	671	368	938
		Urban	61.53	66.93	51.85	558	432	812
	1981	Total	51.56	58.72	42.14	760	545	1,065
		Rural	46.58	53.94	37.07	774	532	1,058
		Urban	65.54	71.69	56.98	720	572	1,094
2 Arunachal Pradesh	1961	Total	7.13	12.25	1.42	894	104	1,004
		Rural	7.13	12.25	1.42	894	104	1,004
		Urban	Entirely rural					
	1971	Total	11.29	17.82	3.71	861	179	1,009
		Rural	9.79	15.77	3.00	881	168	1,014
		Urban	50.46	59.28	31.18	457	241	773
	1981	Total	20.79	28.94	11.32	862	337	1,076
		Rural	18.51	26.36	9.60	881	321	1,082
		Urban	53.22	60.80	41.18	629	426	943

Table 2 : Literacy rates by residence and sex and sex ratio among total population, literates and illiterates for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/State/ Union territory	Census year	Strata	Literacy rate			Females per 1,000 males		
			Persons	Males	Females	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3 Chandigarh	1961	Total	51.06	56.97	42.00	652	481	878
		Rural	20.35	28.68	8.69	715	217	915
		Urban	57.44	62.58	49.39	639	505	865
	1971	Total	61.56	66.97	54.35	749	608	1,035
		Rural	30.53	38.84	18.36	683	323	912
		Urban	64.80	70.03	57.89	756	625	1,063
	1981	Total	64.79	69.00	59.31	769	661	1,009
		Rural	44.73	52.29	33.74	688	444	955
		Urban	66.15	70.19	60.94	775	673	1,015

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1961	Total	9.48	14.71	4.05	963	266	1,084
		Rural	9.48	14.71	4.05	963	266	1,084
		Urban	Entirely rural					
	1971	Total	14.97	22.15	7.84	1,007	356	1,192
		Rural	14.97	22.15	7.84	1,007	356	1,192
		Urban	Entirely rural					
5 Delhi	1981	Total	26.67	36.32	16.78	974	450	1,273
		Rural	24.71	34.32	14.91	981	426	1,271
		Urban	54.17	62.91	44.28	884	623	1,328
	1961	Total	52.75	60.75	42.55	785	550	1,149
		Rural	25.13	38.45	9.40	847	207	1,247
		Urban	56.25	63.47	46.96	777	575	1,129
	1971	Total	56.61	63.71	47.75	801	600	1,153
		Rural	36.23	49.00	20.75	825	349	1,282
		Urban	58.95	65.37	50.90	798	622	1,132
	1981	Total	61.54	68.40	53.07	808	627	1,200
		Rural	47.56	60.11	32.08	810	432	1,379
		Urban	62.64	69.05	54.71	808	640	1,182

Table 2 : Literacy rates by residence and sex and sex ratio among total population, literates and illiterates
for states and union territories, 1961-1981

India/state/ union territory	Census year	Strata	Literacy rate			Females per 1,000 males		
			Persons	Males	Females	Population	Literates	Illiterates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6 Goa, Daman & Diu	1961	Total	30.75	39.04	23.02	1,071	632	1,353
		Rural	27.52	35.61	20.05	1,084	610	1,346
		Urban	47.66	56.32	39.08	1,010	701	1,408
	1971	Total	44.75	54.31	35.09	989	639	1,405
		Rural	40.59	50.40	31.06	1,030	634	1,431
		Urban	56.32	64.39	47.21	885	649	1,312
7 Lakshadweep	1981	Total	56.66	65.59	47.56	981	712	1,496
		Rural	52.68	62.39	43.08	1,013	699	1,533
		Urban	64.99	71.96	57.39	919	733	1,396
	1961	Total	23.27	35.80	10.98	1,020	313	1,414
		Rural	23.27	35.80	10.98	1,020	313	1,414
		Urban	Entirely rural					
	1971	Total	43.66	56.48	30.56	978	529	1,561
		Rural	43.66	56.48	30.56	978	529	1,561
		Urban	Entirely rural					
	1981	Total	55.07	65.24	44.65	975	667	1,553
		Rural	51.98	62.25	41.57	986	658	1,526
		Urban	58.65	68.66	48.25	963	677	1,590

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8 Mizoram	1961	Total	44.01	53.41	34.70	1,009	655	1,413
		Rural	42.76	52.30	33.39	1,017	649	1,420
		Urban	66.06	71.49	59.80	869	726	1,225
	1971	Total	53.79	60.49	46.71	946	730	1,276
		Rural	51.39	58.29	44.10	947	717	1,269
		Urban	72.53	77.55	67.18	936	811	1,368
	1981	Total	59.88	64.46	54.91	919	783	1,166
		Rural	55.24	60.19	49.92	928	770	1,168
		Urban	74.06	77.26	70.47	893	814	1,159
9 Pondicherry	1961	Total	37.43	50.39	24.64	1,013	495	1,539
		Rural	31.33	45.01	17.66	1,001	393	1,499
		Urban	56.63	67.75	46.07	1,053	716	1,760
	1971	Total	46.02	57.29	34.62	989	598	1,515
		Rural	38.60	51.14	25.87	984	498	1,494
		Urban	56.23	65.83	46.60	996	705	1,557
	1981	Total	55.85	65.84	45.71	985	684	1,565
		Rural	47.98	59.39	36.30	977	597	1,532
		Urban	63.04	71.77	54.23	992	750	1,609

Table 3 : Literacy rates for selected cohorts for major states

India/state	1961			1971			1981		
	Popu- lation	Lite- rates	LR	Popu- lation	Lite- rates	LR	Popu- lation	Lite- rates	LR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PERSONS									
<i>Cohort aged 5-9 years in 1961</i>									
INDIA*	62.77	12.33	19.64	46.23	23.76	51.39	50.75	24.14	47.56
1 Andhra Pradesh	5.10	0.96	18.76	3.67	1.50	40.94	4.18	1.56	37.27
2 Bihar	7.42	1.24	16.68	4.49	1.62	35.98	5.13	1.71	33.37
3 Gujarat	3.15	0.80	25.25	2.53	1.48	58.30	2.66	1.45	54.62
4 Haryana	NA	NA	NA	0.98	0.49	50.24	0.94	0.44	47.15
5 Karnataka	3.61	0.82	22.74	2.68	1.36	50.72	2.89	1.41	48.79
6 Kerala	2.44	0.75	30.70	2.34	2.03	86.98	2.08	1.81	86.84
7 Madhya Pradesh	4.64	0.67	14.42	3.22	1.38	43.01	3.79	1.50	39.63
8 Maharashtra	5.73	1.34	23.41	4.28	2.90	67.74	4.96	3.07	61.99
9 Orissa	2.54	0.49	19.44	1.78	0.81	45.68	1.97	0.90	45.83
10 Punjab	NA	NA	NA	1.44	0.85	59.05	1.28	0.66	51.31
11 Rajasthan	3.01	0.40	13.23	2.19	0.78	35.85	2.50	0.85	34.05
12 Tamil Nadu	4.31	1.45	33.60	3.59	2.24	62.27	3.94	2.30	58.49
13 Uttar Pradesh	10.65	1.42	13.36	7.18	3.02	42.05	7.66	2.79	36.46
14 West Bengal	5.41	0.96	17.80	4.09	2.23	54.50	4.59	2.42	52.62

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Cohort aged 10-14 years in 1961

INDIA*	47.99	20.24	42.16	42.00	18.77	44.70	42.44	17.89	42.16
1 Andhra Pradesh	4.12	1.48	35.97	3.44	1.27	36.92	3.54	1.20	33.82
2 Bihar	5.08	1.71	33.62	4.30	1.32	30.64	4.70	1.40	29.67
3 Gujarat	2.42	1.34	55.47	2.21	1.16	52.55	2.21	1.11	50.12
4 Haryana	NA	NA	NA	0.77	0.31	40.41	0.74	0.30	40.52
5 Karnataka	2.84	1.19	41.93	2.35	1.08	45.93	2.31	1.02	44.41
6 Kerala	2.24	1.66	74.22	1.99	1.64	82.29	1.58	1.38	87.16
7 Madhya Pradesh	3.27	1.13	34.37	3.10	1.15	37.21	3.27	1.13	34.70
8 Maharashtra	4.41	2.41	54.56	4.10	2.45	59.70	4.14	2.30	55.61
9 Orissa	1.83	0.65	35.79	1.54	0.61	40.04	1.62	0.64	39.77
10 Punjab	NA	NA	NA	1.13	0.56	48.98	1.07	0.47	44.26
11 Rajasthan	2.34	0.68	29.25	1.97	0.58	29.58	2.10	0.62	29.52
12 Tamil Nadu	3.75	1.91	50.82	3.53	1.93	54.69	3.16	1.70	53.71
13 Uttar Pradesh	8.24	2.66	32.23	6.53	2.14	32.74	6.82	2.08	30.55
14 West Bengal	3.63	1.66	45.76	3.39	1.70	50.23	3.49	1.53	43.75

*Excludes Assam.

LR Stands for literacy rate. Figures in columns 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are in million.

NA stands for not available.

Table 3 : Literacy rates for selected cohorts for major states

India/state	1961				1971				1981			
	Popu- lation		Lite- rates		Popu- lation		Lite- rates		Popu- lation		Lite- rates	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
MALES												
Cohort aged 5-9 years in 1961												
INDIA*		32.12	7.96	24.80	24.58	15.60	63.48	25.75	16.16		62.75	
1 Andhra Pradesh		2.53	0.60	23.46	1.89	0.95	50.28	2.04	1.03		50.44	
2 Bihar		3.83	0.92	23.94	2.37	1.23	52.04	2.53	1.29		50.92	
3 Gujarat		1.64	0.49	30.09	1.35	0.94	69.74	1.37	0.95		69.06	
4 Haryana		NA	NA	NA	0.53	0.35	66.40	0.50	0.33		65.31	
5 Karnataka		1.80	0.50	28.07	1.41	0.85	60.52	1.43	0.91		63.67	
6 Kerala		1.24	0.34	31.69	1.13	1.02	90.63	1.00	0.92		91.90	
7 Madhya Pradesh		2.36	0.47	19.99	1.72	1.02	59.38	1.95	1.12		57.22	
8 Maharashtra		2.89	0.82	28.26	2.34	1.86	79.74	2.52	1.97		78.03	
9 Orissa		1.26	0.33	26.18	0.92	0.54	59.39	1.00	0.63		62.79	
10 Punjab		NA	NA	NA	0.77	0.50	64.93	0.68	0.41		60.63	
11 Rajasthan		1.58	0.30	18.89	1.19	0.61	51.15	1.31	0.67		51.29	
12 Tamil Nadu		2.16	0.85	39.56	1.84	1.35	73.23	1.91	1.42		74.17	
13 Uttar Pradesh		5.61	1.06	18.82	3.98	2.28	57.29	3.91	2.14		54.67	
14 West Bengal		2.72	0.59	21.50	2.21	1.43	64.50	2.44	1.57		64.66	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Cohort aged 10-14 in 1961</i>										
INDIA*		25.56	13.33	54.73	21.01	12.75	60.70	21.60	12.59	58.31
1 Andhra Pradesh		2.15	0.98	45.55	1.68	0.86	50.95	1.81	0.85	46.95
2 Bihar		2.74	1.34	49.13	2.03	1.01	49.62	2.32	1.08	46.59
3 Gujarat		1.30	0.88	67.37	1.12	0.76	67.99	1.13	0.75	66.32
4 Haryana		NA	NA	NA	0.40	0.23	57.92	0.39	0.23	58.92
5 Karnataka		1.45	0.78	53.88	1.20	0.73	60.60	1.16	0.71	60.97
6 Kerala		1.13	0.88	78.51	0.98	0.87	88.52	0.79	0.71	89.97
7 Madhya Pradesh		1.77	0.86	48.51	1.53	0.87	56.75	1.67	0.88	52.49
8 Maharashtra		2.33	1.58	68.00	2.09	1.61	77.60	2.11	1.56	73.79
9 Orissa		0.98	0.48	49.69	0.74	0.44	59.40	0.80	0.47	59.12
10 Punjab		NA	NA	NA	0.60	0.36	59.13	0.56	0.31	55.67
11 Rajasthan		1.28	0.55	42.96	0.98	0.45	45.59	1.10	0.50	45.40
12 Tamil Nadu		1.91	1.21	63.42	1.77	1.25	70.72	1.59	1.14	71.15
13 Uttar Pradesh		4.53	2.09	46.25	3.25	1.62	49.98	3.42	1.64	48.10
14 West Bengal		1.97	1.07	54.35	1.77	1.13	63.94	1.66	0.98	58.82

*Excludes Assam.

LR stands for literacy rate. Figures in columns 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are in million.

NA stands for not available.

DEM-150

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Cohort aged 10-14 years in 1961</i>									
INDIA*	22.43	6.34	28.25	20.99	6.02	28.69	20.84	5.30	25.43
1 Andhra Pradesh	1.97	0.50	25.49	1.76	0.41	23.50	1.73	0.35	20.15
2 Bihar	2.34	0.36	15.52	2.27	0.31	13.18	2.39	0.32	13.25
3 Gujarat	1.12	0.47	41.69	1.09	0.40	36.67	1.08	0.36	33.17
4 Haryana	NA	NA	NA	0.37	0.08	21.42	0.35	0.07	20.33
5 Karnataka	1.39	0.41	29.47	1.16	0.36	30.72	1.15	0.32	27.74
6 Kerala	1.11	0.77	69.86	1.01	0.77	72.26	0.79	0.67	84.45
7 Madhya Pradesh	1.50	0.27	17.66	1.57	0.29	18.18	1.60	0.26	16.09
8 Maharashtra	2.08	0.82	39.55	2.01	0.84	41.60	2.02	0.74	36.62
9 Orissa	0.86	0.17	20.00	0.79	0.17	21.84	0.82	0.17	20.96
10 Punjab	NA	NA	NA	0.53	0.20	37.51	0.51	0.16	31.69
11 Rajasthan	1.06	0.14	12.76	0.99	0.14	13.74	1.01	0.12	12.37
12 Tamil Nadu	1.84	0.69	37.71	1.76	0.68	38.57	1.57	0.56	35.99
13 Uttar Pradesh	3.71	0.56	15.15	3.28	0.52	15.69	3.40	0.44	12.93
14 West Bengal	1.66	0.59	35.54	1.62	0.57	35.25	1.63	0.55	33.78

*Excludes Assam.

LR stands for literacy rate. Figures in columns 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are in million.

NA stands for not available.

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